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East Asia

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Japan

Japan: Tokyo To Submit Special Base Bill to Diet in Fall

OW0306070096 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 29 May 96 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] To swiftly realize the compulsory use of the land for the U.S. forces on Okinawa, the government on 28 May judged that special legislation should be enacted to shift authority for granting the compulsory use of the land from the land expropriation committee to the central government. At the same time, the government firmed up a plan to submit a bill to an extraordinary Diet session in the fall. The Social Democratic Party [SDP] was negative about the enactment of special legislation, saying: "It will lead to the enhancement of the central government's power." However, the government judged that it could obtain the SDP's basic consent by postponing the submission of the bill until the fall.

Regarding the U.S. base land problem, the land expropriation committee already turned down the central government's request for the emergency use of the Sobe communications site (in Yomitan Village, Okinawa). The committee is now dealing with the central government's next request for the compulsory use of the facility. For the committee to begin examination, it is necessary to conduct "public notification and circulation" — the procedure to notify landowners of the central government's request from chiefs of concerned local municipalities. Since Yomitan Mayor Tokushin Yamauchi refused to do so, Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota is asked to go through the process on Yamauchi's behalf.

But Ota's only reply, on 28 May, was: "I would like to handle the issue with prudence while considering the overall situation regarding the U.S. bases." He has not indicated clearly whether he will undertake the public notification and circulation. If Ota refuses, then the prime minister will be forced to undertake the procedure as he did in the recent proxy signing dispute.

Besides the Sobe facility, the central government has requested the compulsory use of 12 other facilities — land owned by approximately 3,000 people. It may take four months or so for the prime minister to complete the public notification and circulation. Since the committee has to examine each of the 3,000 cases after the public notification and circulation, it is felt that at least eight months is necessary to end the dispute. In this context, "there is no chance that the committee will reach a ruling before the lease contract expires next May" (stated by a government source).

The government believes that if nothing is done to solve "the illegal occupation" of the Sobe facility, "it may shake the foundation of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty." Therefore, it judged the special legislation is a must. The Cabinet Councilors' Office on Internal Affairs will take the initiative in enacting the legislation, whose main goal is to grant the central government authority to approve the compulsory use of the land if the expropriation committee fails to reach a ruling within a certain period.

Japan: Ota Welcomes U.S. Panel Decision on Base Issue Hearing

OW3105114596 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 30 May 96 Evening Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] On 30 May, Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota welcomed the report that the U.S. House of Representatives Asia and Pacific Subcommittee has decided to hold a public hearing [on the Okinawa base issue], saying, "The panel's decision to directly listen to Okinawans' voice is just what we have wished for." On the morning of the same day, he called the prefectural government's office in the United States, and instructed a part-time official to quickly verify the report.

Regarding the U.S. lower house's plan to send a fact-finding team to Okinawa, he said: "The place where U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma will be relocated is the treasure house of rare flora, and the neighboring area will also be affected by this plan. One glance is enough for the U.S. mission to understand why we oppose the relocation. The issue of live-fire artillery exercise across Prefectural Highway 104 is the environmental question as well."

Japan: Okinawa Governor To Visit U.S. for Base Talks in Jun

OW0306073496 Tokyo KYODO in English 0706 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, June 3 KYODO — Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota said Monday [3 June] he will visit the United States in the middle of June for discussions concerning the level of U.S. bases in the southernmost Japanese island prefecture.

"The purpose of my visit will go beyond the campaign to address the base problem," Ota told a press conference, talking about his trip to meet with policy-makers and political leaders.

"I would also like to discuss economic issues, which we haven't talked about before, and invite universities and research institutions to come to Okinawa."

It will be Ota's fourth trip to the U.S. to discuss the base issue. His first trip was in 1990. Apart from meeting administration officials, including defense policy-makers, Ota will spend a day consulting with academics during the visit.

Ota indicated he would defer taking procedures necessary for the forced lease of a plot of land inside a U.S. military communications facility in the prefecture until a Supreme Court decision is reached.

"The prefecture has filed an appeal on this matter and we want to make a decision by taking it into account," he said, referring to a lower court ruling ordering him to serve as a proxy of the central government in signing papers for renewing the forced lease of the tract in the Sobe communications facility.

The governor took the land dispute with the central government to the Supreme Court on April 1, appealing against the March 25 local high court decision.

A week ago, Ota indicated he might cooperate with the central government in continuing the forced land rental if the Supreme Court orders him to do so.

The Supreme Court's ruling on the proxy issue is not expected before this fall because it has referred the matter to the grand bench in a move signaling that a precedent-setting ruling involving constitutional judgment may be in the offing, legal sources said.

Meanwhile, Oita Prefecture in southwestern Japan announced that its governor, Morihiko Hiramatsu, will state his opposition to Japan's defense chief against the planned relocation of a U.S. military firing range in Okinawa to his prefecture.

Hiramatsu will meet Defense Agency Director General Hideo Usui on Tuesday to request the removal of the Hijyudai drilling range from a list of possible transfer sites for the firing range, prefectural officials said.

Japan: Tokyo To Seek Land From Yokota Air Base To Widen Road

OW3105111296 Tokyo KYODO in English 1056 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 31 KYODO — The Tokyo metropolitan government will negotiate for the return of 2.3 hectares of land inside a U.S. air base to ease traffic congestion in two western suburban cities, metropolitan government officials said Friday [31 May].

If the negotiations go smoothly between the metropolitan government and the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, an agreement for the return of the land could be signed this year, the officials said.

The negotiations will begin in earnest this summer, they added.

Tokyo Gov. Yukio Aoshima has urged the early return of the land in keeping with an election promise to make the cities of Inagi and Tama more livable.

The land is part of the 198-hectare Tama Recreation Center, which straddles the cities and is attached to Yokota base.

The center borders the Kawasaki Kaido, a major road linking Kawasaki, neighboring Tokyo, with Inagi and Tama.

The road narrows where it passes the center. If the land can be recovered, this would allow for widening of a 2.4-kilometer stretch of the road, easing rush-hour congestion, the officials said.

Following requests from the metropolitan government via the agency, U.S. military authorities earlier agreed to return the required land provided the metropolitan government could supply a substitute site to replace a softball field.

Negotiations over the substitute site subsequently ran into difficulties, but the metropolitan government officials said that if residents' pleas for a wider road go ignored, feelings against the U.S. military could worsen.

They said the U.S. military has since said it will not insist on a replacement for the land and this has opened the way for a conclusion to the negotiations.

Japan: MOT Views Emergency Use of Airports by U.S. Forces

OW3105112296 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 31 May 96 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Japanese and U.S. Governments have launched a joint research project to study how to deal with "contingencies in the Far East." In this regard, the Ministry of Transport [MOT] has compiled a report on its views on restrictions that would be placed on the use of commercial airports and harbors by U.S. forces. According to the report disclosed on 30 May, the MOT believes that, in principle, U.S. forces can use such airports and harbors under the Status of Forces Agreement [SOFA]. Among other things, however, the MOT points out that under existing laws, if such operations should restrict the use of the facilities by commercial aircraft and ships, consent from relevant airline or shipping companies and relevant governments must be obtained. Although Transport Minister Yoshiyuki Kamei said that the ministry "merely sorted points that need to be taken into account," all these restrictions are difficult to remove, and they are likely to become the focal point of future debates over the issue of legislation concerning contingencies.

The MOT compiled the report on its views following the announcement of the joint Japanese-U.S. statement in April. The MOPT's report covers four topics: "the use of airports," "the use of harbors," "the transportation of goods and other operations," and "maritime security and other matters." The MOT has also submitted its report to the Liberal Democratic Party Research Commission on Security.

Regarding the topic of "the use of airports," the MOT maintains that U.S. military aircraft "can use airports under the SOFA." However, the ministry notes that an agreement has to be concluded via the Joint Committee, which is set up by the Japanese and U.S. Governments, if U.S. forces seek exclusive use of airport facilities, aircraft parking areas, and other structures at designated airports.

Moreover, the MOT notes that, under existing laws, concrete details about the use of airports must be provided. The MOT further points out that the following requirements must be met: 1) When the number of regular commercial flights have to be reduced as a result of the use of airports by U.S. forces, arrangements must be made with concerned airline companies; 2) when the airline company in question is a foreign company, approval of the government of the relevant country must be obtained; 3) when the airport in question is managed by a local government, approval of the local authorities must be obtained; 4) when there are restrictions on aircraft noise, the approval of the local residents must be obtained; and 5) arrangements must be made to secure designated air space, post air traffic controllers, and carry out other operations.

Some officials concerned with aeronautical and military affairs believe that "obtaining approval from foreign governments" is a process that would in effect draw foreign governments into direct involvement with the Japanese-U.S. security treaty. They also feel that since "getting approval from local residents" would be an extremely time-consuming process, it would pose a major obstacle to the U.S. military.

The MOT also says "the use of harbors" is permissible, in principle. However, as in the case of airports, the MOT says the approval of local governments managing the harbors in question must be obtained, and in case the use of harbors by commercial ships has to be regulated, arrangements have to be made with shipping companies and other parties concerned.

Regarding "the transporting of goods and other operations" via commercial aircraft and ships, the MOT says "it will be necessary for the U.S. military and other parties involved to conclude an agreement with carriers and other relevant parties."

During the Gulf war, the Japanese Government dispatched Japan Airlines [JAL] planes to evacuate Japanese nationals. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] had to charter JAL flights due to, among other factors, the lack of legal provisions to allow the government to take compulsory measures in times of emergencies.

In regard to "maritime security and other matters," the MOT says it will "deploy more Maritime Safety Agency [MSA] patrol boats and aircraft to trouble areas."

The MOT and the MSA say that "the sole purpose of deploying additional patrol boats and aircraft during contingencies will be to secure the safe passage of commercial vessels and rescue boats carrying refugees.

In exchange for the return of U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Japan and the United States have agreed to conduct joint research on the issue of responding to emergencies. In this regard, a senior MOT official has complained: "The Defense Agency and other relevant government agencies did no inform us at all about the specific scenario to follow in case of contingencies. We cannot put up with their having us work our asses off when that moment arrives." It is observed that the MOT's compiling a report on its views, listing various "restrictions" before debate on the issue goes into full swing, is an expression of such feelings.

Japan: Okinawa Campaign Issues Include Base, Security Issues

OW0106041596 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 31 May 96 Morning Edition pp 2, 3

[Unattributed article: "Prefectural Assembly Election '96— Parties To Compete Over Security, Base Issues"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 1996 prefectural assembly election, which will determine Okinawa's course of action toward the 21st century, is going to be announced to the public on 31 May, and 79 [figure as published] individuals are expected to run for the election. The largest focal point is whether or not opposition parties (conservatives) can maintain their dominance in the assembly. The election result will influence the national political scene heading for the general election, and the judgment of the Okinawan people may also affect the Japanese Government's Okinawa policies. Prior to the public announcement of the election, we are going to discuss the unique features, significance, and major campaign issues of the election:

Interparty Relations

The upcoming Okinawa election will become the first prefectural assembly election conducted under the coalition government of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], the Social Democratic Party [SDP], and New Party Sakigake organized after the collapse of the LDP-SDP antagonism that had existed since 1955. Following the political regrouping at the national level, interparty relations are changing in Okinawa, too. Unlike four years ago, Komei Okinawa now has ties with the New Frontier Party [Shinshinto] in line with a merger at the national level. Also, Komei concluded a policy accord with the SDP at the local level.

The locally based Social Mass Party [SMP] has lost most of its partnership with Komei and the SDP, but its connection to the Japan Communist Party [JCP] is still alive.

Meanwhile the LDP and SDP, coalition partners at the national level, are still at odds. Generally speaking, the conservative-reformist antagonism is not very obvious in the election, and many independent candidates have no clear ideological position.

Significance of the Election

A half century after World War II, Okinawa's bases problem finally became a top-priority issue for the Japanese politics. The prefectural assembly election is going to seek the Okinawan people's judgment on the national government's attitude toward Okinawa-related issues — the election will become a touchstone for the national government's Okinawa policies. Those who will fill the 48 assembly seats will be expected to play an important role in determining Okinawa's course of action in the 21st Century. In this sense, the 1996 election will have great historical significance.

At present, the ruling parties have only 21 seats in the prefectural assembly, while the opposition parties occupy 25 seats and two seats are vacant. Winning a majority is an urgent need for the reformist administration of Governor Masahide Ota, who wants to smooth implementation of his own policies. Members of the pro-Ota parties — the SDP, SMP, JCP, and Komei — are calling for public support for "reinforcement of the Ota Administration's foundation by recovering the majority."

On the other hand, opposition parties — the LDP and Shinshinto — are seeking stronger control over the prefectural assembly by expanding their power. As the LDP has lost the gubernatorial elections two straight times, a victory in the prefectural election is an important clue to the 1998 gubernatorial race. As for Shinshinto, the Okinawa election is its first prefectural assembly election since its foundation, and it really wants a victory so that it can take the initiative in the general election expected in the near future.

The break-even point for both ruling and opposition parties is 25 seats, a majority in the 48-seat assembly. Governor Ota will be able to carry on his policies more positively if the ruling parties win the majority; however, if the opposition maintains the majority, his administration will have difficulties in implementing various policies.

The voters' judgment on Governor Ota, who is serving the last half of his second term, is still uncertain.

Campaign Issues

The prefectural assembly election is going to be held under greatly changed circumstances regarding U.S. bases in Okinawa, and security will inevitably become the biggest campaign issue.

The LDP, Shinshinto, and Sakigake show their postures to support or tolerate the Japan-U.S. security alliance. In contrast, the SDP Okinawa, the SMP, and the JCP are calling for abolition of the bilateral security pact, and Komei says "the security pact is an obstacle to peace and happiness for the Okinawan people." Okinawa's ruling parties — the SDP, SMP, JCP, and Komei — support the prefectural government's action program advocating return of all U.S. bases by the year 2015. The LDP and Shinshinto say the action program is "unrealistic and unpractical." Sakigake is calling for "further enrichment of the contents" of the action program.

Redress of Okinawa's high unemployment rate has been a major policy issue since Okinawa's reversion in 1972. How does each candidate link industrial development with base relocations? How can he or she try to secure jobs for those now working on bases? Industrial and employment policy will become a touchstone for candidates.

In addition, the candidates' positions vary on such issues as the relocation of Ishigaki Airport, the consumption tax rate hike, and liquidation of failed housing loan companies (jusen).

Japan: Coalition Official on Relocation of U.S. Base

OW0106115696 Tokyo KYODO in English
1132 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, June 1 KYODO — A ruling coalition leader Saturday [1 June] questioned the advisability of a plan to move the U.S. Futenma Air Base on Okinawa Prefecture to the site of an ammunition depot nearby.

Yukio Hatoyama, a senior representative of New Party Sakigake, the smallest partner of the three-party coalition, told a group of voters in Naha that the planned relocation will damage the natural environment of the area where the ammunition depot is located.

Hatoyama was in Naha, the capital of Okinawa, Japan's southernmost island prefecture, to support the party's candidate who is running in an election for the prefectural assembly.

In April, the United States agreed to return the Futenma airfield site and relocate its functions to the site of the depot or another location.

He said the question involving U.S. military bases in the prefecture should be considered by taking environmental problems into the account, citing reports that high levels of harmful substances such as mercury and polychlorinated biphenyl were detected in a sewage disposal storage at the former site of a U.S. communication facility.

He called on voters to continue checking environmental pollution near U.S. military bases.

Japan: Landowners Want Compensation After U.S. Base Return

OW0106123896 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, June 1 KYODO — Local landowners of the U.S. Futenma Air Station in Okinawa Prefecture said Saturday [1 June] they will demand that the central government make "proper use" of the base and pay compensation to them after it is returned by the U.S. military under a bilateral accord.

A group of landowners in Ginowan in the island prefecture, who are leasing land to the U.S. military, decided at a rally to lobby the central and local governments in seeking the measures.

The rally was held because some landowners of the Futenma base have expressed opposition to the return of the base as they presently depend upon government fees for leasing their land to the U.S. military.

About 2,100 members, or three-fourths of the group's total, own land at the Futenma Air Station.

The United States agreed in April to return the Futenma base in Ginowan to local landowners within five to seven years as part of plans to scale down U.S. military facilities on Japan's southernmost island.

Seizen Hanashiro, chairman of the group, told some 500 participants that he would do his utmost to realize government compensation to landowners and the promotion of "proper use" of the base.

Japan: Article Views U.S. Military Base Pollution

OW0306081496 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 1 Jun 96 Morning Edition p 3

[Article by a reporting team on military base issues]

[FBIS Translated Text] *U.S. military bases, where various types of super-modern weapons are accumulated, are sources of environmental pollution. Following the end of the Cold War, military bases located on the continental United States have been closed down, and over 10,000 locations have been reported as facing serious environmental pollution problems. In Okinawa, Japan, the issue of conservation of the natural environment has surfaced regarding the Kadena Ammunition Storage Area, which has been named as a candidate location for relocating [Marine Corps] Air Station Futenma. In fact, however, various problems such as soil contamination have been reported time after time during the past few years on U.S. military bases in Japan. What has been taking place on the military bases that are protected as military secrets by the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement [SOFA]?*

The "Wall" of the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement

Last March, an environmental issue surfaced at the former Onna Communications Site of the U.S. forces, which covers a broad area of the northern part of the main island of Okinawa.

The Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau announced that toxic materials such as polychlorinated biphenyl [PCB], cadmium, and mercury had been detected in the sludge accumulated in the sewage disposal sinks at the communication site. Later, the prefectural government conducted further research and discovered that the mercury detected was more than four times that of the safety standards stipulated in the waste disposal law.

The communications site was returned to land owners last November. However, due to this problem, the area surrounding the disposal sinks is placed off limits even now.

The local Onna Village Assembly has adopted a statement of opinions demanding that the sludge be recovered. SOFA, however, states that with regard to the facilities to be returned, the U.S. side has no obligation to restore them to their original state. Therefore, a total of about 120 tons of sludge remains there untreated.

SOFA stipulates that the U.S. forces should respect domestic laws, but it also guarantees the U.S. forces administration rights over military bases, and SOFA has hampered efforts to prevent environmental pollution.

The Sagami comprehensive supply station located in Kanagawa Prefecture is responsible for storing and treating toxic wastes or scrapped materials that are brought in almost daily from the U.S. military bases located in the Kanto area.

Last autumn, destruction of the wastes by fire became a problem. It seems that waste materials or plastics were burned in the field because white smoke was noted flowing out of bases. The waste disposal law states that waste disposal must be destroyed with burning equipment. However, it seems that there are no such facilities on bases and the waste was most likely burned in a big hole dug in the ground.

Sagamihara City submitted a request to the national government that domestic laws must be "adhered to" rather than merely "respected."

Difficulty in Seizing the Actual Situation

"When on earth will they be able to understand?"

Staff members of the Yokosuka city government in Kanagawa Prefecture — where the U.S. Yokosuka Naval Base is located — have begun to share a growing sense of irritation.

About four years ago, such materials as intense mercury and lead were detected in soil belonging to the quay of a military base facing the Bay of Tokyo, and it was discovered that a portion of contaminated soil was scattered around the on-base land plot reclaimed from the Tomariura Bay. In this connection, the national government has been repeatedly asked to make public the results of a survey conducted by the U.S. forces the following year in 1993; however, no report has been disclosed.

The report compiled by U.S. forces was submitted to the Environment Agency in November 1994, which serves as a liaison for the panel on the environmental issue under the Joint Japan-U.S. Committee. However, in response to the inquiry from the city government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] has repeatedly stated only that "it is still under readjustment among those concerned."

The "NEPA [expansion unknown] Association," a citizens' group, has succeeded in obtaining the results of the U.S. forces' survey, one step earlier than the city government, by applying the U.S. Freedom of Information Act. In his criticism, 67-year-old Shoji Shimizu, who is a representative of the NEPA Association said: "Since it is quite possible that contaminated soil is flowing out into the sea, it is intolerable that no information has been given to local residents who are suffering from damages."

Another citizens' group was also able to obtain a report — earlier than the local government — on the actual situation of environmental pollution at the U.S. Yokota base in Tokyo. When the U.S. forces conducted an exercise concentrating U.S. aircraft at Yokota in 1993, about 68 kiloliters of aircraft fuel leaked from an oiler. The U.S. forces submitted its final report on this accident to the Environment Agency in May 1995. However, it was five months later that the central government gave a report to the local governments, including Fussa city.

Meanwhile, Yoichi Endo, a 48-year-old member of the Fussa city assembly, succeeded in obtaining a copy of the final report by applying through the Freedom of Information Act in August, 1995. In his appeal, City Assemblyman Endo stated: "The report was submitted to the panel on the environmental issues under the Joint Japan-U.S. Committee. However, the disclosure of this report was delayed because the Joint Committee is not open to the public and also because it is the responsibility of the central government. To handle based-related environmental issues, we need to set up a consultative organ with the participation of the local residents so that measures such as aftercare measures can be worked out."

The Same Problem Also Noted in the United States

"To clean up the environments of over 10,000 contaminated facilities located all over the United States, it will take several decades and cost a total of $25 billion (which is equivalent to 2.75 trillion yen)."

In late 1993 the U.S. Department of Defense disclosed an estimate to the above effect. During the past few years, special attention has been paid in the United States to the problem that the contaminated environment of the areas around military bases may become an obstacle to the plans for utilizing land plots after their return to land owners.

Mr. Gregg Bischack [name as transliterated], managing director of the "All-U.S. Committee on Shifting Military Industry Into Civilian Industry and Also on Disarmament," a nongovernment organization in Washington D.C., is very familiar with base-related environmental issues. Bischack points out: "Regulations of the Environment Protection Bureau have never been applied to military bases. Thus, many cases of underground water pollution caused by PCB's, Torichloroethylene, insecticides, herbicides, and others have been reported."

The pollution has occurred at the Marine Corps Air Station located in El Toro, southern California, because of long-time practices of discharging used jet fuel through overflows and of disposing of used ammunitions underground.

It is estimated that to clean up this environment, it will cost a total of $250 million (equal to approximately 27.5 billion yen). It has already been decided that military bases will be closed and units will be transferred to other places by late 1999. However, the problem connected with clean-up expenses remains unsettled, and it remains unknown if the project can be promoted on schedule.

An accord has already been reached on the return of MCAS Futenma in Okinawa but the government may still have to settle the same problems in connection with the relocation project.

Mr. Bischack states: "The government is trying to close down military bases with a hope that the project may contribute to the development of the local economy. At this juncture, the key lies in whether the government is capable of making thorough-going investigations into such environmental problems. The same reasoning can be applied to the case in Okinawa."

Japan: U.S. Navy Officer Denies Negligence in Fatal Crash

OW0306080696 Tokyo KYODO in English 0716 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, June 3 KYODO — A U.S. Navy officer admitted in an Okinawa court Monday [3 June] his involvement in a traffic accident resulting in the death of a 19-year-old Japanese student in February, but denied he had been driving negligently at the time.

Timothy J. Bovill, 34, who is based in Okinawa Prefecture, southwestern Japan, told the Naha District Court on the first day of hearings into a suit brought by the parents of the dead 19-year-old, Teppei Ebihara, that he was observing traffic regulations and traveling slowly at the time of the accident.

According to the suit, the accident occurred Feb. 22 when Bovill turned to enter a U.S. base on a national highway and collided with Ebihara's bike, which was traveling in the opposite direction between the sidewalk and a parked car.

Bovill and his attorneys, however, said Ebihara was driving his minibike on the sidewalk in violation of traffic rules.

Ebihara's parents lodged the suit in April, seeking some 78 million yen in damages.

Under the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces agreement, U.S. service personnel are required to take personal responsibility for damages inflicted off duty.

Ebihara, who was from Hyogo Prefecture near Kobe in western Japan, was in Okinawa to take an entrance exam for a local university.

Japan: Tokyo Seeking Initiative in Regional Security Dialogue

OW0306070796 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 1 Jun 96 Morning Edition p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The government intends to take the initiative in construction and reinforcement of multilateral confidence-building systems, including those at nongovernment levels. To ease uncertainties in the DPRK (North Korea) and other neighboring regions of Japan, the government is going to steadily call for a six-nation regional consultative body, adding Japan and Russia to proposed members of the quadrilateral talks — the United States, the ROK, China, and North Korea. Early in June, government representative Nobuo Matsunaga will run in the co-chairmanship election of the steering committee of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Asia and Pacific (CSCAP), a nongovernment organization assisting the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Matsunaga will run for the election under the title of director of the International Affairs Research Institute, seeking Japan's initiative in CSCAP.

The government is taking a positive attitude toward multinational confidence-building. A senior Foreign Minister official said, "a multilateral security system in the Asia-Pacific region is becoming a realistic subject" following the Japan-U.S. security declaration, which reconfirmed reinforcement of bilateral security ties.

Japan has recently had defense minister talks with Russia. The defense and security dialogue with Russia in addition to existing ties with China and the ROK was a part of Japan's attempt to construct a confidence-building system in Northeast Asia, a "vacuum" of multilateral security mechanisms.

The CSCAP is organized by scholars and high-level officials from 13 nations in the Asia-Pacific region, and the members are jointly carrying on security-related studies and surveys. North Korea is taking part in the CSCAP while it has no seat in the ARF. The CSCAP is led by two chairmen — one elected from ASEAN members and one from non-ASEAN members. The election of the non-ASEAN chairman will be held in the CSCAP steering committee meeting in Kuala Lumpur 4-5 June.

If Matsunaga is elected CSCAP co-chairman, Japan will be able to take positive roles in confidence-building in Northeast Asia at the nongovernment level while formal dialogue with North Korea is at a stalemate.

In a speech made in May, Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda stressed "construction of a confidence-building mechanism in Northeast Asia is an urgent task." Japan is showing a positive attitude toward construction of a confidence-building system by expanding the framework of the quadrilateral talks (of the ROK, North Korea, the United States, and China) proposed by the United States and the ROK.

Yet, there are too many difficulties in realizing such a confidence-building body. Even if it comes true, its practical effect may be questionable.

Japan: Ozawa Interview on Right of Collective Self-Defense

OW0306110396 Tokyo FNN Television Network in Japanese at 0203 GMT 2 June 96

[Interview With Japanese New Frontier Party [NFP] Chairman Ichiro Ozawa, by Soichiro Tahara; from the "Sunday Project" talk show — live]

[FBIS Summary] The interview begins with a brief review, with video footage, of Ozawa's remarks made during the 7 April program in which Ozawa states that the right of collective self-defense does not run counter to the Constitution. Tahara then asks Ozawa what he meant when he recently said in Beijing that Japan is ignored by the PRC. Ozawa responds by saying that Japan is not only ignored by the PRC, but also by other nations because it does not indicate its clear-cut intentions. He adds: "So, when Japan is required to make a political decision or show its political position clearly, it fails to do so. Therefore, foreign nations do not have anything to do with Japan." Ozawa goes on to discuss how Japan is seen by foreign nations.

Citing Ozawa's recent remarks, in which he states that it is possible to use the right of collective self-defense under the Constitution, Tahara says that many people question why Ozawa made such remarks despite the fact that the Cold War has collapsed. Tahara then asks Ozawa what he thinks of such a public view. Ozawa says the collapse of the Cold War means that regional, racial, and other conflicts will surface, and adds: "In this sense, there is a possibility that until a new order is created, various racial and regional conflicts will occur. Therefore, I am of the opinion that it is necessary to consider ways to hold such conflicts back under the common responsibility of the international community, with the United Nations playing a central role."

Asked about what he thinks of the ongoing debates over how to deal with emergency situations in the Far East, Ozawa says that what he proposes has a different meaning. Citing the preamble of the Constitution, which stipulates: "We desire to occupy an honored place in international society," Ozawa says that to continue to live in peace and comfort, it is a precondition for Japan to get along well with foreign nations. He then stresses the importance of cooperating with nations in the world in ensuring peace by playing its role. He notes that the ideas of the Constitution fall in line with the UN Charter and stresses: "I want the public to first discuss Japan's full participation in the international community. This is what I want to say most." He reiterates: "It is necessary for Japan to fulfill its role in the international community. To do so, Japan has to take part in activities that are approved by the international community." He then discusses in length the differences between the conventional views on the use of the right of collective self-defense and what he advocates.

Asked by Tahara about how he sees the ongoing Japan-U.S. move to review the guidelines for Japan-U.S. defense cooperation, within the gray zone of the Constitution, Ozawa says: "I am opposed to such a method," and: "This is very dangerous." He says Japan is trying to do this without holding debates on the Constitution. He then criticizes the government's way of interpreting the Constitution. He adds that Japan can join joint military sanctions sponsored by the international community against the actions of a given nation that the international community views as being aggressive or criminal. Asked what he would do if he were in the prime minister's position, Ozawa says: "If an emergency situation takes place, although I do not know what emergency it would be, and if the U.S. Forces take military action, Japan would carry out its obligations within the framework of the Japan-U.S. security pact. But Japan should not take part in such a military action unless it is recognized as an aggressive or criminal act." Asked whether or not he thinks the Constitution should be revised, Ozawa says: "I do not think it is necessary to revise the Constitution."

Asked what he thinks of the current administration's intention to deal with an emergency when it happens in the Far East, without touching the right of collective self-defense issue, Ozawa says: "I cannot agree with the current administration's methods or ideas. They are rather dangerous."

Tahara asks Ozawa to comment on the results of a recent poll in which 62.6 percent of the NFP members thought the use of the right to collective self-defense went against the Constitution. Ozawa says: "What I have been saying repeatedly is that Japan should join the international community. Japan needs to share in the responsibilities and play a role in the international community."

The interview ends at 0240 GMT.

Japan: Sakigake Official on Right of Collective Self-Defense

OW0306115296 Tokyo SHUKAN DAIYAMONDO in Japanese 1 Jun 96 p 119

[Article by Shusei Tanaka, Japanese New Party Sakigake vice chairman: "Insights Into the Age — The Right to Collective Self-Defense"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One passage in the "joint Japan-U.S. security agreement," concluded during the 17 April Japan-U.S. summit talks, reads:

"The prime minister and the President agreed to initiate a review of the 1978 'Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation' to build upon the close working relationship already established between Japan and the United States. The two leaders agreed on the necessity to promote bilateral policy coordination, including studies on bilateral cooperation in dealing with situations that could emerge in the areas surrounding Japan and that could have an important influence on Japan's peace and security."

Based on this accord, commitment has been made on studying how Japan-U.S. defense cooperation ought to be in cases of Far East emergencies, and the deliberations on the rights or wrongs of the "right of collective self-defense" have once again been revitalized.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, I would like to state my basic ideas on the "right to collective self-defense."

In my opinion, the "government view" that the exercise of the right of collective self-defense is unconstitutional is an unmistakably correct interpretation of the Constitution. Far from that, my understanding is that the denial of the exercise of the right of collective self-defense conforms with the Constitution's so-called fundamental standards.

In this regard, a clear-cut conclusion will be reached on the question as to whether or not the government view should be changed so that the right of collective self-defense can be exercised. Rather than saying it should not be changed, we must say "It cannot be changed." In other words, the right of collective self-defense cannot be exercised by changing the Constitution's interpretation.

It then follows that for this purpose, it will be necessary to revise the Constitution. However, I am of the opinion that the Constitution should not and need not be revised for the purpose of exercising the right of collective self-defense.

In other words, I feel that since the Constitution does not allow it, we should not exercise the right of collective self-defense. To begin with, I feel that the Japan of today need not and should not exercise the right of collective self-defense right.

Let me point out two basic reasons:

One reason is that for our country to exercise the right of collective self-defense will not contribute to Asia's peace and stability. On the contrary, it will intensify instability in Asia. Whatever our objective, the exercise of such a right itself will constitute a new military threat and lead to instability in Asia.

As a result, it could possibly further promote military expansion in Asia. Moreover, there is also a danger of further intensifying the spiritual gap between our country and the peoples of other Asian countries despite the fact that this gap has been repaired at great pains. If the exercise of this right should be regarded as an attempt to shift back to the policy of power just like the ass in the lion's skin, our past efforts made during the 50 years since the war will all be for naught.

The other reason is that I do not think our country is mature enough to decide on how to effectively exercise the right of collective self-defense for the sake of peace.

To effectively exercise the right of collective self-defense for defending our country, what is most important is firmly establishing a system of civilian control, the system of deciding on policies on the basis of the popular will. As long as diplomacy or defense remains influenced, even to the slightest degree, by the "politics oriented to the government authority [kanken seiji]," it will be wise to shelve the right of collective self-defense, which has been compared to a double-edged sword.

Presently, the Japanese and U.S. Governments have agreed to set a limit that defense cooperation will be promoted only "within the framework of the Constitution," and Japan is not expected to exercise the right of collective self-defense. Nevertheless, what I fear most is that certain measures will be taken one by one so that a decision will eventually be made on exercising the right of collective self-defense. In other words, without changing the government's view nor revising the Constitution, the right of collective self-defense could be exercised substantially before one is even aware of it.

Presently, an argument that seems to be prevalent in the political circles is that "the right of collective self-defense should not be used as a controversial issue to promote the regrouping of political parties." I think the argument is nothing but a failure to properly evaluate the importance of the matter.

There is no need to venture to turn the argument into a controversial issue, nor to make it a motive for regrouping political parties. However, to free our country from anxiety about the future, it will be necessary, at this juncture, to clarify the extent and boundary between the "right of collective self-defense" and the "individual self-defense right." Is it not the responsibility of politicians or political parties?

Strictly speaking, the regrouping of political parties should be the result of deliberations. It should be realized that this issue is an important policy that will decide the destiny of Japan and Asia in the 21st century, it will be necessary to take this opportunity to carry out thoroughgoing deliberations.

Japan: Panel on Defense Cooperation With U.S. in Emergencies

OW0306090796 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0000 GMT 2 Jun 96

[Panel discussion on Japan-U.S. defense cooperation in Far East emergencies with Taku Yamasaki, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party Policy Research Council; Shigeru Ito, chairman of the Social Democratic Party Policy Board; Kisaburo Tokai, chairman of New Party Sakigake Policy Research Committee; Kazuo Aichi, chairman of the New Frontier Party Policy Board; and Hiroshi Kikunami, chairman of the Japan Communist Party Policy Committee; NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto moderates; from the "Sunday Discussion" program]

[FBIS Summary] Discussion begins with Yamamoto asking about the extent of Japan's defense cooperation with the United States in cases of emergency in the Far East. Yamasaki notes that the ruling parties take the stand that Japan should give extensive and active cooperation to the U.S. forces within the framework of the Constitution, which bans the exercise of collective self-defense. Aichi questions conditioning Japan's defense cooperation, saying: "It is inappropriate to make the condition that Japan should cooperate within the framework of the Constitution." He urges politicians to study crisis management measures by setting aside constitutional constraints. Ito disagrees with Aichi, noting that the ruling coalition will study what Japan can do based on the Constitution and judicial precedents, while taking into account Japan's relations with neighboring countries. Kikunami also criticizes Aichi's assertions, claiming that such an assertion will inevitably lead to a revision of the Constitution. Meanwhile, Tokai shows understanding of what Aichi has said, but stresses that political parties should first study what Japan can do within the Constitution.

They next discuss the proposed application of the Japan-U.S. Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement [ACSA] in emergency situations. Yamasaki and Ito note that the issue should be discussed in the review of Japan-U.S. defense cooperation guidelines. Meanwhile, Aichi claims it is ridiculous to limit the ACSA application to peacetime, saying: "Military exercises are conducted in preparation for emergency situations. If the ACSA is limited to peacetime, then there is no point in conducting military exercises." He adds: "If Japan insists on limiting the ACSA to peacetime, the Japan-U.S. alliance will collapse."

Asked whether or not new legislation will be needed to expand defense cooperation with the United States, Yamasaki says: "There will be many cases which Japan cannot handle unless the current law is revised. Japan can deal with many emergency cases under the present law, but if it needs to take emergency measures banned by current law, such as conducting minesweeping operations in the open sea during wartime, we may need to revise the Self-Defense Forces Law." Aichi also stresses that if necessary, the current law should be revised to enable Japan to handle all possible emergency cases.

Japan: MOF Views Complaint to Insurance Rate Revision

OW0306065896 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 31 May 96 Morning Edition p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Finance [MOF] will probably reject a complaint filed by AIU Insurance Co., a Japanese subsidiary of the major U.S. nonlife insurer, over the revision of premium rates for casualty insurance. "The Fire and Marine Insurance Rating Association of Japan," a third party organization, has proposed the review. The MOF believes there is little possibility for the association, which is mainly comprised of scholars, to bring up a decision to set an unreasonable rating. If the MOF rejects the AIU appeal, it may harden the United States' attitude at the ongoing Japan-U.S. insurance talks.

As a reply to the AIU complaint, the MOF will listen to what the company and the association have to say as early as next week. The ministry explained: "We will examine how the premium rate was decided and whether the rate is discriminative. If we rule AIU's complaint is reasonable, then, we will order the association to alter the rate."

However, the MOF actually views: "Since the association scientifically calculated the premium by using data from the past, it is not likely that the association set up an unreasonable rating."

Regarding AIU's complaint, the MOF takes a stance that "it has nothing to do with the Japan-U.S. insurance talks." Therefore, it denies speculation that the ministry is giving consideration to the United States.

If the MOF does not order the association to alter the premium or withdraw the proposal, the new rating will take effect in mid-August.

Japan: Article Notes No Prospects for Insurance Talks Accord

OW0106063296 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 31 May Morning Edition p 9

[By Tomohiro Kawamata]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Finance [MOF] revealed on 30 May that Japan-U.S. insurance talks held in Washington prior to the 1 June deadline ended in failure, and that the two countries would continue negotiations. The MOF intends to try to conclude the talks by the end of June, when life and nonlife insurance companies are scheduled to hold a general meeting of shareholders or a general proxy meeting to decide to enter each other's businesses by setting up subsidiary firms. However, since the "gap in claims between the two countries is extremely large," it is impossible to predict when an agreement is reached (as stated by a senior MOF official).

According to the MOF, the points at issue in the talks are 1) the timing for life insurance companies' subsidiary firms to enter the injury insurance market and 2) the propriety of the proposal that progress in implementing deregulation in both life and nonlife insurance sectors be monitored for the next one year. The two countries are expected to leave room for compromise over these two points. However, both Japan and the United States have stuck to their principles.

With regard to the first point, Japan has maintained that it is possible for life insurance companies' subsidiary firms to enter the injury insurance business. It has asserted that their participation in the injury market is not regarded as one of the "new or expanded programs" — which are subjects to access regulations in the 1994 Japan-U.S. agreement — because most nonlife insurance companies have already sold their injury insurance programs. On the other hand, the United States has maintained that the participation of life insurance companies' subsidiary firms in the injury insurance market should be regulated, saying that the participation is impossible at present. Thus, the two countries have failed to reach accord on the issue. Since foreign nonlife insurance companies have depended greatly on injury insurance business, the United States has not indicated a stance of making concessions.

On the second point, the United States has demanded that, if it approves the progress in deregulation in both the life and nonlife insurance markets a year after, life and nonlife insurance companies be allowed to enter each other's businesses about three years after the time the United States approves the progress. However, Japan has refused to comply with the U.S. demand, asserting that it "cannot leave the United States to judge the progress in deregulation and to determine the timing for mutual participation" by life and nonlife insurance companies.

At a general meeting of shareholders at the end of June, nonlife insurance companies plan to decide to set up subsidiary firms to enter the third sector business. Life insurance companies plan to make the same decision at a general meeting of substitutional members in early July. They are scheduled to begin such business in October. The MOF has explained that it is necessary to determine what kind of insurance programs can participate in the third sector market, before life and nonlife insurance companies make a decision on setting up subsidiary firms.

Japan: Editorial Urges Free Competition in Insurance Fields

OW0106142596 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 31 May 96 Morning Edition p 3

[Editorial: "Japan-U.S. Insurance Dispute Should Be Resolved To Benefit Policyholders"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the failure to resolve their insurance dispute during the recent talks, it has virtually become impossible for Japan and the United States to conclude the negotiations by the 1 June deadline. The insurance issue has been one of the major trade disputes between the two countries. The two others concern rows on semiconductors and photographic film.

Japan's new insurance law, which allows life and nonlife insurers to enter into each other's areas of business through their subsidiaries, took effect on 1 April. Since then, the insurance industry has promoted preparations for the full-fledged liberalization of the market.

The so-called "third sector," which covers sickness and nursing products, is also subject to liberalization. U.S. insurance companies, which have benefited from the Japanese Government's restrictions on Japanese insurers' entry into the sector, are pressing Washington to block the liberalization of this area, and this is considered a major reason why the recent talks fell apart.

The liberalization of the insurance market is in line with global trends in the liberalization of the financial field. It is expected to promote competition and improve products and services, including premium rates, which will benefit policyholders.

A delay in concluding the talks will hinder the liberalization of the insurance market. Both life and nonlife insurance firms plan to set up subsidiaries to advance into each other's turfs, including the third sector, after making formal decisions at board meetings and general shareholders' meetings scheduled for early July. The delay will also hinder these procedures.

To promote the liberalization of the insurance market for the benefit of policyholders, the Japanese and U.S. Governments should resume talks and resolve the dispute as early as possible.

The insurance dispute stems from a bilateral accord in October, 1994.

The accord stipulates: 1) Parent life and nonlife insurance firms should not be allowed to handle third sector products until certain amounts of liberalization are accomplished in each field; and 2) Subsidiaries' sales of products not handled by major insurers should only be permitted two to three years after liberalization is achieved.

Despite this agreement, the United States has recently claimed that even subsidiaries should not be allowed to sell third sector products until liberalization has been achieved.

Meanwhile, the Japanese Government contends: "Life insurance firms' subsidiaries should be allowed to sell casualty insurance products that are handled by major nonlife insurance firms." In addition, it has proposed the following liberalization steps: 1) Premiums for car, fire, and casualty insurance, which are currently set by a premium rates assessing bureau, should be set freely outside the bureau; and 2) Mail-order sales of car insurance should be allowed.

The United States has refused Japan's proposal on casualty insurance. It has asserted that Japan's liberalization proposals should be monitored for one year to see whether or not Tokyo will fulfill its pledges, and that Japanese subsidiaries should be allowed to sell third sector products three years after the two sides confirm the liberalization of the Japanese insurance market.

The United States has interpreted the bilateral agreement in its favor to protect the interests of U.S. insurance firms. In addition, it has made assertions to have a "veto" on Japan's proposals. Such assertions may constitute an interference in Japan's domestic affairs, and the Japanese Government should not accept them.

Some Japanese firms are reportedly opposed to the government-proposed liberalization steps. But if the insurance industries of both countries continually struggle to protect their vested interests, the dispute will never be resolved.

Promoting free competition in all insurance fields, including the third sector, will benefit policyholders and lead to the development and revitalization of the insurance industry. The governments and industries of both countries should recognize this anew.

Japan: Hashimoto on Japan-U.S. Chip Talks Without Europe

OW0306091696 Tokyo KYODO in English
0905 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, June 3 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto expressed concern Monday [3 June] on whether bilateral Japan-U.S. talks can resolve the semiconductor trade dispute, noting that Europe has also shown interest in the issue, a top government spokesman said.

In an 80-minute meeting at the premier's official residence, Hashimoto and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale agreed that the two countries will continue sincerely discussing semiconductors, insurance and other bilateral economic issues, Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama said.

Japan has been rejecting a U.S. call for renewing the current bilateral chip pact beyond its expiration July 31, arguing government involvement is no longer necessary, given the growing presence of foreign chips in the Japanese market.

The Japanese and U.S. semiconductor industries are discussing a private-sector partnership to replace the pact, but they are divided over whether they need government involvement in one form or another.

The European Union is calling for making the planned partnership a trilateral one among the Japanese, U.S. and European industries.

The Japanese Government is thinking of making a "slight" commitment in the chip dispute, in a form not mentioning any numerical target for semiconductor imports, Kajiyama told a press conference, adding that Washington hopes Tokyo will make a stronger commitment.

Kajiyama did not elaborate on what he meant by a "slight" commitment.

Mondale told reporters after the meeting that he and Hashimoto discussed general trade issues, including semiconductors and insurance.

They also discussed the upcoming Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations' summit in Lyons, France, the envoy said.

The ambassador also said he gave Hashimoto a letter from U.S. President Bill Clinton expressing thanks for the successful summit the two leaders had in April in Tokyo.

Mondale declined to comment when asked if he made any new proposals on the semiconductor row or if there was debate on the so-called "third-sector" insurance market dispute.

The third sector covers sickness, accident and nursing insurance products, an area where foreign companies are considered to have an edge over their Japanese competitors.

Japan plans to allow life and nonlife insurance companies to enter the third sector through subsidiaries, but the United States wants Japan to delay such action until agreement is reached on opening the Japanese market to foreign firms.

Japan, U.S. Chip Industry Leaders May Meet in Mid-Jun

OW0306081796 Tokyo KYODO in English 0720 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, June 3 KYODO — A Japanese semiconductor industry group has proposed holding a top-level meeting with its U.S. counterpart as early as mid-June in a bid to agree on a bilateral arrangement for private-sector partnership, group sources said Monday [3 June].

The Electronic Industries Association of Japan (EIAJ) has sent to the U.S. Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) a set of proposals for a cooperative framework to replace the expiring Japan-U.S. microchip accord, they said.

The two groups have agreed there will be a three-year transitional partnership framework after the July 31 expiry of the 1991 government-level agreement.

In its proposals, the EIAJ called for setting up a bilateral industry group to discuss the microchip trade.

It also urged the two sides to standardize chip specifications, exchange expertise on efficient chip production, collaborate for protection of intellectual property rights, and tackle environmental and energy issues, according to the sources.

The planned partnership with the SIA would be separate from a meeting of Japanese and European microchip industry leaders scheduled to take place in Britain later this month, the sources noted.

Meanwhile, a senior official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said the government will decide on the necessity of continued government involvement in the semiconductor sector after the private partnership has taken shape.

"It is too early now to discuss what sort of government involvement will be necessary," Vice MITI Minister Tomio Tsutsumi said at a news conference.

Tsutsumi, however, said it is no longer necessary for the government to be involved in the industry the way it has been under the 1991 agreement, which calls for the foreign microchip share in Japan to rise above 20 percent, a target which has already been met.

Japan: MITI To Reconfirm Stand on Semiconductor in USTR Talks

OW0106144396 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 1 Jun 96 Morning Edition p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] will urge the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Office within this week to encourage private-sector talks on the Japan-U.S. semiconductor accord, which expires on 31 July. On 31 May, MITI Minister Shunpei Tsukahara met with Norio Oga, Electronic Industries Association of Japan [EIAJ] chairman (and Sony Corporation chairman), and reiterated that "the private sector should not expect government roles until it carries out full discussions with its U.S. counterparts." MITI will tell the USTR "even if the chip accord is extended at the private level, the Japanese Government will not take any supervisory roles such as market share monitoring." Following the 30 May statement by Oga, the U.S. Government had great expectations for "the Japanese Government's positive roles" in the chip accord talks. Hereafter, the Japan-U.S. talks are likely to face rough going due to the broad gap in the positions of the two governments.

MITI is expected to convey to the USTR the following policies through the working-level channel: 1) The bilateral chip agreement should be switched to a private cooperation accord without the extension of the official agreement; 2) private-sector talks should be promoted for the time being without government intervention; and 3) even if the government takes certain roles in the implementation of the private-sector accord, Japan will refuse any trade controlling roles.

During the 30 May news conference, Oga hinted at his stance on complying with the U.S. demand for continued government control, saying "certain control may remain." The next day, Tsukahara summoned Oga to reconfirm Japan's stand on this issue.

Oga said after the meeting: "Japanese and U.S. industries should take the initiative in discussions on future cooperation, and whether or not the government should take certain roles should be discussed after reaching an accord at the private level." On 1 June, the EIAJ will convey to its U.S. counterpart its "private talks first" policy and some definite plans for business cooperation. In line with this, MITI will send a message to the USTR to reconfirm its position.

Regarding the focal point of government roles in the private chip accord, MITI has no intention to bear such supervisory roles as monitoring of the foreign chip share in the market. However, a senior MITI official noted: "The government would offer the necessary support if it is important for the industrial sector." MITI is studying possibilities for such cooperation measures as hosting a Japan-U.S. business fair, promoting production tie-ups, standardizing manufacturing machines, releasing market trend survey data, and, depending on the private-sector accord, MITI will finalize its cooperation program.

On the other hand, the United States is still urging the extension of the intergovernment accord to deeply involve the Japanese Government in such functions as market monitoring. There is still a great gap in the positions of the two nations

Japan: Chip Association To Propose Framework to U.S. Makers

OW0206135796 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 31 May 96 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] On 30 May, with regard to the issue of extending the Japan-U.S. semiconductor agreement, which will expire at the end of July, it was revealed that the Japanese and U.S. semiconductor and electronics industries have reached a substantial agreement to abolish the current accord and settle the issue by announcing a joint statement on the extent of their cooperation, which includes cooperation among microchip industries both at home and abroad. To defuse the friction, they will coordinate with each other to form the "Microchip Roundtable" (conference on cooperation)," which will be attended by microchip manufacturers not only from Japan and the United States, but also from Europe and Asia.

The final settlement of the issue will depend on whether or not both governments can reach an agreement on "government involvement" — that is, whether or not the governments will guarantee the cooperation at the private-sector level. While the United States seeks government involvement, the Japanese Government takes the position of avoiding direct involvement. Therefore, further complications are still expected.

As to the accord issue, the Electronic Industries Association of Japan [EIAJ] and the U.S. Semiconductor Industry Association [SIA] have repeatedly conducted private-level meetings. As for the details of the cooperation framework, the EIAJ will make a proposal to the U.S. side on 1 June.

Its contents include: Even at the expiration of the agreement, cooperation between business circles will be maintained through such organs as "the Foreign Microchip User Conference," whose objective is to promote the use of foreign microchips in Japan; and as a new plan for cooperation, measures will be taken to standardize specifications so that an efficient microchip production system can be developed.

The SIA will propose setting a 10-year term for the new arrangement. Meanwhile, the EIAJ is studying the possibility of setting a 3-5 year term. However, it plans to maintain this cooperative structure even after the term expires.

The focal point at issue concerning the accord lies in whether or not the government's survey of domestic share (market share) by foreign-made microchips should be continued. A study is now under way on minimizing government involvement by calculating the share on the basis of such trade data as the "Global Microchip Market Statistics."

The U.S. side requests that the government survey of market share be continued. While hoping to eliminate government involvement, Japanese manufacturers are concerned that their strong opposition may impair Japan-U.S. relations. And final coordination on government involvement with regard to future governmental negotiations will be further promoted.

Japan: Chip Makers To Discuss Tripartite Accord With Europe

OW0306042296 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 2 Jun 96 Morning Edition p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] The Electronic Industries Association of Japan (EIAJ), which represents Japan's semiconductor manufacturers, plans to cooperate with European makers in forging a private-sector agreement between Japan, the United States, and Europe after the expiration of the Japan-U.S. chip pact. It will shortly hold a meeting with its European counterpart to discuss details of the tripartite accord, including technical cooperation. The association will urge the U.S. industry to participate in the attempt to establish the pact.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] welcomes the move. The efforts by Japan and Europe to forge a private-sector agreement appear to be a strategy for "encircling" the U.S. Government and American chip makers, which have insisted that a chip accord should be limited to Japan and the United States.

Initially, the EIAJ planned to hold a meeting with the European industry after the issue of the Japan-U.S. chip accord was settled. However, taking into account MITI's view that "industrial cooperation should not be limited to Japan and the United States," it changed the plan and decided to first hold a meeting with its European counterpart in response to Europe's request for its participation in Japan-U.S. chip talks.

The EIAJ and the European Electronic Component Manufacturers Association have agreed to hold a meeting in London in the near future. Executives of major semiconductor makers, such as NEC Corporation and Toshiba Corporation, are expected to attend the meeting.

The meeting will discuss ways to standardize semiconductor equipment and deal with environmental issues within the framework of multilateral industrial cooperation. It will also discuss measures to expand European access to the Japanese market. A second meeting is scheduled for July.

The EIAJ has decided to hold a meeting with the European industry group because Europe's consistent stand that "government involvement is not necessary" in semiconductor trade issues is close to "Japan's position," (according to an EIAJ executive). Also, it believes that Europe's participation at this time "will be advantageous to Japan in promoting talks with the United States."

However, even if talks between Japan and the United States, and between Japan and Europe progress, it will be difficult to directly link the framework of private-sector cooperation after the expiration of the Japan-U.S. chip pact with three-way talks unless the United States agrees on trilateral private-sector talks involving Europe. Whether or not Europe will be able to persuade the United States to agree on a three-way meeting during planned talks with the United States is also the key to the realization of the trilateral talks.

Japan: Sadako Ogata Seen as Possible UN Secretary General

OW0306114296 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 31 May 96 Morning Edition p 4

[Article by Yoichi Funabashi: "Japanese Reflection Mirror"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sadako Ogata, who has been serving as United Nations high commissioner for refugees for five years, visits Washington this time every year. She goes there to call for understanding and cooperation from leaders of the United States for refugee relief activities.

She had thorough discussions with Vice President Gore and other officials this year, too.

At a luncheon with reporters, questions were asked: "Is the Japanese Government trying to recommend you for the post of next UN secretary general? Do you want to become UN secretary general?"

"That is not so, as far as I know. Do I want to become UN secretary general? I like the job I have now." After answering clearly, she smiled.

UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's term of office will expire at the end of this year. There are already some rumors about the next secretary general. Together with Norwegian Prime Minister Brundtland and Irish President Robinson, Sadako is viewed as one of the hopeful candidates for the post.

The U.S. Government has not picked a person to support. Women's groups are voicing their views, saying "let's send a woman to the United Nations as its first female secretary general." Some members of the Clinton administration share the same view.

A high official of a developing country at the UN Headquarters in New York said: "Sadako is the best fit for the post. She has more experience working for the United Nations than anybody else and her capability has already been proven. There is no doubt that she will win a popularity contest if we have one. She is faithful to principles and flexible at the same time. She is tough, but has no enemies. She is an ideal person for the post."

Secretary General Butrus-Ghali is seeking reelection. He is troubled by Sadako's popularity. A UN official said smilingly: "Every time High Commissioner Ogata makes a business trip to Japan, Butrus-Ghali finds an excuse to call her back."

Countries in Africa, where Butrus-Ghali is from, are leaning toward his reelection. Some Middle Eastern Muslim nations oppose the idea of a woman becoming head of the United Nations.

The same high official from a developing country also said: "There are bigger problems." China may disapprove of Ogata becoming UN secretary general. China thinks Japan is its rival. "China is not really in favor of Japan winning permanent membership on the Security Council, not to mention Ogata becoming secretary general."

Japan also has its own problems. Japan wants to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council. The same high official said: "It seems that Japan is worrying that other countries may say that Japan should be satisfied not with the permanent membership, but the post of secretary general" if it launches a campaign to have Ogata as UN secretary general.

A Chinese diplomat said: "The Chinese Government is not assuming a definite stand yet. China did not like Butrus-Ghali for about two years. But China accepts him now. Butrus-Ghali gave Jiang Zemin a warm welcome when he attended a UN general session. Recently, Butrus-Ghali visited Beijing and explained his view that it would be difficult for Taiwan to join the United Nations. Counting on China, he started to seek his reelection."

A Japanese diplomat explained as follows. "It seems Mrs. Ogata is not interested in the post of secretary general. To the Japanese Government, winning an election, which will be held by permanent members of the Security Council at the end of October, is the top priority task for the time being. Besides, Secretary General Butrus-Ghali is becoming very nervous about Mrs. Ogata's moves. Therefore, we cannot do anything right now."

It is impossible to launch a campaign to have Ogata as head of the international organization if you have to sound out her intentions first. No progress can be made in something like this unless supporters start taking actions on their own discretion.

Japan should not hesitate to send a leader worthy of representing its policies to the United Nations if it wants to form the future shape of the United Nations while overlapping with national vision, thereby making international contributions in some areas — regardless of whether it be social economic development, expansion of education, refugee relief, or improvement of women's status — not as a military superpower, but as public welfare major power. Japan should promote the campaign together with other countries, who share the same will, rather than trying to do it by itself.

An international system is not something that is given. It is something the international community creates. After all, mankind makes decisions in organizations and systems and the decisions vary depending on the quality of leadership. Mrs. Ogata has such leadership capability.

Regardless of whether it is a politician, corporation, or nongovernment organization, a civil society should act first if it is difficult for the government to move. Under such circumstances, a president or person who served as a prime minister plays a leadership role in promoting the campaign. This is common sense in the international community.

Japan: Hashimoto To Talk With Seoul on DPRK Aid Decision

OW0106113196 Tokyo KYODO in English 1114 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, June 1 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told South Korean President Kim Yong-sam on Saturday [1 June] that Tokyo will consult with Seoul before making any decision on whether to provide additional food aid to North Korea, Japanese officials said.

Hashimoto made the remark in a telephone conversation in connection with an expected call from the United Nations for the international community to offer humanitarian aid to the north to help alleviate the food shortage there, the officials said.

Kim replied that he hopes Japan will talk with South Korea when making a decision on the issue, they said.

The two leaders also pledged to cooperate with one another in co-hosting the 2002 World Cup soccer finals.

As for proposed four-way peace talks on the Korean peninsula, Hashimoto said Japan hopes Pyongyang will agree to participate in the talks soon.

Kim and U.S. President Bill Clinton during their meeting in April proposed that the Korean peace talks be held among North and South Korea, China and the United States.

Japan: Tokyo To Provide Food Aid to DPRK Upon UN Request

OW0206124896 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 2 Jun 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] On 1 June, the Japanese Government and ruling parties decided to provide food assistance to the DPRK if requested by the United Nations. Several UN organizations, such as the World Food Program (WFP), are considering making an urgent appeal in early June for assistance for the DPRK, which is suffering from a food crisis, and the Japanese Government has decided that it should accept their request. In the past, the government and ruling parties remained cautious towards rice assistance because the DPRK has been reluctant to accept a proposal for four-way talks (between the ROK, United States, DPRK, and PRC) for promoting the peace process on the Korean peninsula. However, Japan has decided to extend assistance on the grounds that "there will be no problems if it is humanitarian aid."

As for the UN's urgent appeal, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said during a 1 June telephone conversation with ROK President Kim Yong-sam: "We should seriously deal with this. Japan would like to consult with the ROK." Thus, Hashimoto showed his intention to extend food assistance to the DPRK after winning the ROK's understanding. In response, President Kim strongly requested: "We hope that Japan consults with us on this matter."

In view of the fact that the United States has been ready to extend food aid to the DPRK, the ruling coalition parties have already unofficially sounded out the ROK about the possibility of Japan's food assistance, and have started to study the details of the program.

Japan: Hashimoto Welcomes FIFA Decision, Pledges Support

OW0106045996 Tokyo KYODO in English 0451 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, June 1 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Saturday [1 June] he welcomes soccer governing body FIFA's decision to have Japan and South Korea co-host the 2002 World Cup . "It is really a good thing. There is nothing bad for both countries to pursue one goal," Hashimoto said.

Hashimoto, speaking to reporters at his official residence, said the government will give its full backing to the co-hosting plan.

"There are areas where naturally the government has a role to play, like (the issue of) passports," he said.

The 2002 World Cup will mark the first time that the tournament will be co-hosted by two nations.

Japan had vigorously opposed co-hosting the World Cup with South Korea prior to FIFA's decision Friday but Hashimoto suggested Saturday political considerations had prevented the government from speaking out for joint hosting.

"It is wrong for politics to stay in front of sports," he said.

The FIFA decision to split the 32-nation tournament between Japan and South Korea has brought anxiety and unease among the 15 Japanese cities competing to get part of the world cup action.

Celebrations were to be held in most of the candidate cities Saturday if Japan had won the sole right to host the World Cup, but some of the events were canceled.

In Sapporo, a celebration scheduled at Atsubetsu Park stadium was called off.

"I feel like I suddenly lost enthusiasm. Children who were looking forward to attending the celebration were disappointed," an official said.

Ceremonies scheduled in Hiroshima, Kobe and Aomori were also canceled.

However, in Toyota, Aichi Prefecture, municipal officials decided to go ahead with their ceremony in a show of sportsmanship.

Hisashi Fukuoka, one of the ceremony's organizers, said, "it's good that Japan and South Korea will co-host the World Cup."

In Oita, southwestern Japan, prefectural officials also decided to go ahead with their festivities. One official said, "South Korean players are doing well for our local team and Oita is the only candidate city in Kyushu, so we want to take a positive view of the co-hosting plan."

Japan: Hashimoto Urges Cooperation With ROK on World Cup

OW0306054596 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0307 GMT 3 Jun 96

[Announcer-read report; from "NHK News" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the morning of 3 June, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto stressed that Japan and South Korea need to strengthen cooperative ties in seeking a successful co-hosting of the 2002 World Cup soccer finals. He made the remarks during a study meeting with political and economic circles. In the meeting, Hashimoto said that the decision to have Japan and South Korea co-host the World Cup soccer finals would serve a good purpose in the end. He added that he hopes the two countries will promote dialogue and strengthen cooperation in an effort to make the World Cup a success and to promote bilateral friendship.

Japan: Industrialists 'React Calmly' to World Cup Decision

OW3105142996 Tokyo KYODO in English 1353 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 31 KYODO — The Japanese business world reacted calmly Friday [31 May] to the world soccer governing body FIFA's approval of joint hosting by Japan and South Korea of the 2002 World Cup finals.

Jiro Nemoto, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), said, "it is good for Japan and South Korea to cooperate. I hope the ties between the two countries will deepen."

Kosaku Inaba, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the decision, which will require the FIFA to change its rules, was probably the result of "painstaking efforts" after evaluating the strong enthusiasm of both countries in the race to host the finals.

"If the two countries accept joint hosting, they should forget their feelings of rivalry and cooperate to make a success of the first World Cup finals ever held in Asia," he added.

With the World Cup getting bigger and bigger, the costs of hosting such a large event are expected to reach the point where only a few countries can afford to put the games on alone.

The joint hosting decision was also a necessary response to this situation, Inaba said.

Japan: Reaction to FIFA Decision Said 'Mixed'

OW3105144996 Tokyo KYODO in English 1425 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zurich, Switzerland, may 31 KYODO — The world soccer governing body FIFA said Friday [31 May] it will allow Japan and South Korea to co-host the 2002 World Cup in an unprecedented move aimed at ending the bitter rivalry between the two Asian neighbors.

FIFA Chief Joao Havelange told reporters after a closed-door meeting of the FIFA Executive Committee that the decision was made unanimously by the 21-member board.

Havelange also said FIFA will set up a working group to work on the co-hosting plan and that the group will report back to the FIFA Executive Committee by December at the latest.

Reaction from Japan and South Korea was mixed.

South Korean President Kim Yong-sam promptly accepted the FIFA proposal.

"I believe that the co-hosting of the 2002 World Cup will serve as an occasion to further solidify the friendly relations of Korea and Japan," Kim said in a telegram to the South Korean bid committee in Zurich.

The response from the Japanese bidders, who have all along been opposed to multiple hosting, was lukewarm.

Saburo Kawabuchi, vice chairman of the Football Association of Japan, indicated that Japan will accept the joint-hosting plan but warned of more complications ahead.

"A multitude of problems remains to be solved," Kawabuchi said in a television interview. "There are problems that cannot be resolved by Japan and South Korea alone, and I expect (co-hosting) will be carried out under FIFA leadership."

Sports officials in Japan also gave qualified acceptance.

"While it is undesirable for politics to get involved in sports, the fact that two neighboring countries are going to jointly host the first world cup in Asia has profound meaning," said Chiharu Igaya, a Japanese member of the International Olympic Committee.

The co-hosting decision appears to mark a decline in the influence of the FIFA chief who has all along brushed off the co-hosting proposal and has repeatedly said he favors Japan as the host.

European countries, which are intent on blocking Havelange from seeking a seventh term in office in 1998, have linked the 2002 World Cup hosting issue with democratic reforms in the sport's governing body, which has been under the 80-year-old Brazilian's iron-clad rule since he was first elected to the post in 1974.

Havelange called Shunichiro Okano, the head of Japan's World Cup bid committee, into FIFA headquarters ahead of the meeting Friday and persuaded him to accept co-hosting, the South Korean news agency YONHAP said.

The three African members of the FIFA Executive Committee joined forces with Europe to get the co-hosting plan approved.

European soccer chief Lennart Johansson, the main force behind the co-hosting proposal, has argued that joint hosting is the only way to end the bitter rivalry between Japan and South Korea.

The two countries reportedly have poured a total of more than 10 billion yen into the campaign to become the first country to stage the world cup finals in Asia.

In Tokyo, the top Japanese Government spokesman said earlier Friday that it would be up to Japan's World Cup bid committee to decide whether to accept joint hosting if the proposal was accepted by FIFA.

"It is not the government which is doing the bidding," Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama said. "If FIFA wants co-hosting, it calls for a totally new response, and essentially it is the bidding committee which must look into the matter."

Japan: Prospective World Cup Host Cities Cancel Celebrations

OW0106015796 Tokyo KYODO in English 0145 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, June 1 KYODO — Local officials of candidate cities in Japan bidding to host world cup matches expressed mixed feelings Saturday [1 June], one day after the world soccer governing body FIFA decided to allow Japan and South Korea to co-host the 2002 extravaganza.

Celebrations were to be held in most of the candidate cities Saturday if Japan had won the sole right to host the World Cup, but some of the events were canceled.

In Sapporo, a celebration scheduled at Atsubetsu Park stadium was called off.

"I feel like I suddenly lost enthusiasm. Children who were looking forward attending the celebration were disappointed," an official said.

Ceremonies scheduled in Hiroshima, Kobe and Aomori were also canceled.

However, in Toyota, Aichi Prefecture in central Japan, municipal officials decided to go ahead with their ceremony in a show of sportsmanship.

Hisashi Fukuoka, one of the ceremony's organizers, said, "It's good that Japan and South Korea will co-host the World Cup. We want to have as many matches as possible in Toyota, and I will voice our requests to that end."

In Oita, southwestern Japan, prefectural government officials also decided to go ahead with their festivities. One official said, "South Korean players are doing well for our local team and Oita is the only candidate city in Kyushu, so we want to take a positive view of the co-hosting plan."

Japan: Hashimoto Plans 'Heartfelt' Apology for Comfort Women

OW0306071396 Tokyo KYODO in English 0627 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, June 3 KYODO — Prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto promised Monday [3 June] to write a "heartfelt letter with apology and remorse" to Asian women forced into sexual slavery for Japanese troops before and during World War II, the head of a fund for compensating the victims said.

Hashimoto made the pledge when he met Bumbei Hara, president of the government-initiated "Private" Asian Women's Fund, at the premier's official residence, Hara told reporters.

Hara said he hopes "we can somehow make a decision" at the fund's meeting of directors Tuesday on the amount of money to be paid to the former sex slaves, euphemistically called "comfort women" in Japan. Hara is a former president of the House of Councillors.

The foundation has put off making a decision on the solatia as some of fund directors voiced uncertainty about how Hashimoto would express his feeling toward the women in the anticipated letter.

Some former sex slaves and their supporters criticize the fund drive as a means to allow the government to avoid compensating the women on its own.

An estimated 100,000 to 200,000 women, mainly from the Korean peninsula which was then under Japanese colonial rule, were sent to wartime brothels by the Japanese Imperial Army.

Japan: Government Source: PRC Delays Nuclear Tests Until Jul

OW0206121596 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 31 May 96 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] On 30 May, a Japanese source said that the Chinese Government has seemingly decided to postpone its next nuclear test until July. The PRC is the only nuclear-armed nation that has not declared a conclusion to underground nuclear tests. The source noted that the PRC is now ready for its next nuclear test, but will not conduct it before the end of the ongoing session of arms reduction talks in Geneva.

Formulation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is now under way at the Geneva arms reduction talks. It appears the postponement of the nuclear tests were determined in consideration of the ongoing arms reduction talks and criticism from Japan and other members of the international community. The second round of Geneva talks will close on 28 June, and the third round is scheduled to start on 29 July. During the period between the rounds of talks, the PRC is expected to conduct "last-minute" nuclear tests at least twice.

According to the Japanese Government source, the PRC completed a tunnel for this year's first nuclear test at Lop Nur in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region by mid-May, and is now digging another tunnel for the second test. Therefore, the PRC is expected to conduct nuclear tests at least twice.

The Japanese Government believes the PRC is postponing the nuclear tests because the international community is very likely to react strongly if the tests are conducted while the CTBT negotiations are going on in Geneva.

Japan: Government Decides Not To Freeze Yen Loans to Beijing

OW0206055296 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 2 Jun 96 Morning Edition

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government decided on 1 June not to freeze its yen loans to China even if Beijing resumes nuclear testing. The decision follows the government conclusion that a review of the yen loan program, which is the "basis of the relationship of trust between Japan and China," may have a serious impact on relations between the two nations. Moreover, considering that China has shown a flexible attitude in negotiations to conclude a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the government intends to refrain from taking a hardline position and promote the negotiations. However, if China becomes the only nation to continue nuclear testing, it is certain that voices calling for freezing yen loans will grow within the ruling and the opposition parties. It is expected that work within the government ruling parties to put the finishing touches on the decision will face rough going.

On China's nuclear testing, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] has concluded that "China is ready for a test and it would be no surpise if a test were conducted at anytime." A test was not conducted in May. But "China is carefully seeking a chance to resume testing while keeping an eye on the negotiations on concluding the CTBT and feeling out Japan's response, wherein a view calling for freezing yen loans has been expressed" (according to a MOFA source). Therefore, it is widely observed that China will conduct a test soon or later.

The government has already firmed up a plan to file a protest with the Chinese ambassador to Japan and to continue to freeze gratuitous financial cooperation if a test is conducted. However, partly because China applied pressure on Taiwan's presidential election by conducting military drills, there is deep-rooted opinion within the ruling and the opposition parties that the government should show a stand of reviewing the yen loan program in an effort to demonstrate Japan's strong protest against the testing. With such a view in mind, the government has conveyed such a mood in Japan to China and called for self-restraint.

The Japanese and Chinese Governments have agreed on Japan's provision of 580 billion yen for the first half (three years) of the fourth yen loan program, which begins this year. In previous discussions at MOFA, some said: "After China conducts a test, we will not able to continue to maintain the current policy toward it as if there were nothing happened." Meanwhile, however, coming to such broad viewpoints emphasizing overall Japan-PRC relations as "Even if we freeze yen loans, China will not give up testing" and "to help promote China's reform and open-door policies, it is important to continue to provide yen loans, which contribute to improving infrastructure" (a senior MOFA official), MOFA decided not to review the yen credit program at present.

Since the inauguration of Taiwanese President Li Teng-hui, tension between China and Taiwan has eased. Meanwhile, relations between the United States and China are moving toward improvement with the United States announcing its decision to continue to give most-favored nation (MFN) status to China. In Japan, there is a view that "Japan cannot take a conspicuous attitude alone in terms of the overall trend of the international community" (according a MOFA source).

Nevertheless, as the government still cannot foresee how the public will react when a nuclear test is conducted, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and other top leaders of the ruling parties will finally be required to make a political decision.

Japan: PRC Ready To Show 'Flexibility' on CTBT Talks

OW0306093696 Tokyo KYODO in English 0921 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, June 3 KYODO — China is ready to take a softer line toward concluding an international nuclear test ban treaty by the end of the year, a Chinese government official said Monday [3 June].

"We are prepared to show a certain degree of flexibility on this issue," acting Chinese ambassador to Japan Wu Dawei told the Japan National Press Club, indicating Beijing may drop its demand for reserving the right to so-called "peaceful nuclear explosions."

China's insistence that the proposed Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) allow nuclear blasts for peaceful purposes has been the main stumbling block to concluding the pact aimed at banning all types of nuclear tests.

Asked when China will formally announce a halt to its nuclear experiments, Wu said it will come after the CTBT goes into force and not immediately after the treaty is signed.

He sought the understanding of the Japanese Government and the Japanese people about China's nuclear policy but added it does not necessarily mean China will carry out nuclear test blasts in the near future.

"Whether or not we will conduct nuclear tests in the near future, China is effectively entering a final phase of nuclear testing," he said.

Japan: PRC Envoy Says Concept of IPR 'Hard To Accept'

OW0306094696 Hong Kong AFP in English 0927 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, June 3 (AFP) — China finds it hard to accept the concept of intellectual property rights [IPR] as it has not yet received any patent fees for the marine compass, paper, gunpowder or printing, a Chinese official said Monday [3 June].

"We let people all over the world use our four great inventions without collecting any money," said Wu Dawei, charge d'affaires at the Chinese Embassy.

"So Chinese do not quite understand the idea of intellectual property," he told a news conference, referring to US threats to impose sanctions against China for allegedly failing to protect intellectual property rights.

Wu noted that "some countries" had invented pistols with the use of Chinese gunpowder while navigating the oceans using Chinese compasses.

"We don't mean we are willing to ignore international rules," he said. "But it will take more time for all Chinese to deeply understand the concept of intellectual property.

"Discussions with the United States are still under way," he said. "We hope the two countries will reach results which are satisfactory to both sides."

During the news conference, Wu also called on Japan to refrain from linking its aid to China to the country's nuclear tests. "We oppose Japan linking its aid with the Chinese nuclear test issue," he said.

Some members of the ruling coalition have urged the government to review aid to China as Beijing reportedly prepares for another nuclear test this year.

But the ASAHI SHIMBUN reported Sunday the government planned to continue loans to China even if the tests are resumed.

Japan has already agreed to China's loan requests over the next five years, pledging 580 billion yen (five billion dollars) for the first three years. The amount for the remaining two years has yet to be determined.

Japan: PRC's Lu Ping Hails Japan Investment in Hong Kong

OW0306124296 Tokyo KYODO in English 1221 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, June 3 KYODO — China's top official in charge of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs urged increased Japanese investment in Hong Kong on Monday [3 June], noting Chinese capital will not have a monopoly in the territory after its reversion to China next year, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said.

Lu Ping, director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of China's State Council or cabinet, made the comment during a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo.

The two discussed Hong Kong's reversion to China on July 1, 1997.

Lu told Ikeda that Chinese capital will not have "monopoly status and will never pressure foreign capital," the officials said.

Lu also told Ikeda that China will permit Hong Kong to maintain its free economy under the "one country, two systems" concept and that, "with the exception of diplomatic relations and defense, Hong Kong's local administration, system and citizens' lifestyle will not change at all."

The officials quoted Lu as saying he is in Japan "as a salesman for Hong Kong."

They said Ikeda told Lu that, "Hong Kong's stable prosperity is important not just for Japan and the world, but also for China."

Lu's comments follow remarks Friday in an interview with Cable News Network (CNN) that no statements voicing support for "two Chinas" would be allowed in the territory after its return to China in reference to the long-running sovereignty dispute between Taiwan and China.

Lu told CNN that the news media in Hong Kong will have freedom to criticize the Chinese Government but that if such comments lead to movements to overthrow the government, it would be a different matter.

Many Hong Kong newspapers criticized Lu the following day, questioning whether the remarks he made hinted at possible restrictions on freedom of the press after the British colony's reversion to China.

Japan: Chinese Men Arrested in Kobe for Suspected Illegal Entry

OW0306003196 Tokyo KYODO in English 2359 GMT 2 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kobe, June 3 KYODO — Six Chinese men have been arrested on suspicion of unlawfully entering Japan aboard a container ship that is anchored at the Kobe port, Maritime Safety Agency (MSA) officials said Monday [3 June].

The officials said MSA investigators found the Chinese aboard the 8,282-ton Han Zhong He, which arrived at the port shortly after midday Sunday.

The Chinese said they tried to enter Japan to work, the officials said, adding that the suspects each had 10,000 to 30,000 yen in their possession when arrested.

The Chinese ship left Fuzhou, Fujian Province, on Thursday and crew members on deck saw smoke coming out of the container ship on Saturday and alerted the MSA.

Japan: Saudi Foreign Minister on Middle East Peace

OW0306044796 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 29 May 96 Morning Edition p 4

[Report on an interview with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal by Daisuke Murakami and Hidenori Sato of YOMIURI SHIMBUN foreign news department in Tokyo on 28 May]

[FBIS Translated Text] Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, who is visiting Japan, granted an interview to YOMIURI SHIMBUN at a Tokyo hotel on 28 May. Regarding the stalled Mideast peace process, the foreign minister said: "I feel uneasy about Israel's recent move." He disclosed that he made a proposal to the United States to hold a second "Madrid conference."

The foreign minister pointed out: "Under the name of security, Israel created big disasters by indiscriminately bombing Lebanon. It is imposing collective punishment on Palestinians by blocking (the Palestine autonomous regions in Gaza Strip on the West Bank) and taking other measures." He explained that such Israeli moves is a "hindrance to the peace process."

Then, the foreign minister emphatically explained the need to hold a second "Madrid Conference," attended by countries concerned. He said: "We need to exert efforts to unite our movements once again to attain peace." The Madrid Conference was held at the end of October 1991, under the joint auspices of the United States and the former Soviet Union to attain comprehensive Middle East peace. In addition to the five Arab nations — Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon — other Arab nations except Iraq, Libya, and Yemen attended the conference. The conference served as a starting point for a declaration of principle on tentative autonomy by the Palestinian Liberation Organization and also for the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty.

The foreign minister disclosed that a proposal had been made to the United States under the name of King Fahd at a terrorism summit, which was held at Sharm el Sheik on the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula in March, for holding a second international conference. He said: "We have not received a negative response from the United States. We believe that the United States will spend time studying the proposal for realization of the conference." Syria has been insisting on holding a second "Madrid Conference." However, it turned out that Saudi Arabia, which could not remain idle about the stagnant Middle East peace process, acted in harmony with Syria.

Regarding the Israeli general election, which will be held on 29 May, the foreign minister gave a warning, saying: "The agreement with Palestinians must be fulfilled regardless of who wins the election."

The foreign minister also touched on the agreement between the United Nations and Iraq on partial removal of the ban to export Iraqi crude oil. He said: "The humanitarian issue, which we were concerned about, has been solved. It is a must for the international community to strongly urge Iraq to abide by the UN resolution."

Regarding UN policies, on the other hand, the foreign minister pointed out that the Middle East region is "entrusting the United Nations" with many problems, including Middle East peace and the Iraqi issue. He then explained his prudent stand, saying: "Our country hopes that a UN reform will not negatively impact [the peace process]." He expressed his support for Japan's bid to become a permanent member of the Security Council, saying: "There is no doubt that Japan's bid should be studied."

On the "Arabian Oil Co.," whose drilling rights in Saudi Arabia will expire in 2000, the foreign minister explained his understanding, saying: "This is the first area where both countries started cooperation and has an important historic significance to both countries." At the same time, he stressed the fundamental stand that Saudi Arabia would like to deal with the issue while closely observing Japan's cooperative stance toward expansion of oil industrial foundations, including construction of an oil refinery.

The foreign minister then disclosed the fact that after former Prime Minister Murayama visited Saudi Arabia in September last year, King Fahd established a committee to study the issue and to make a proposal on renewing the drilling contract. He said that "several options have already been shown to Japan for contract renewal."

Arabian Oil Co. is the only Japanese company that is untapped and still produces oil in Saudi Arabia. Because of this, economic circles are strongly calling for continuation of the contract even after 2000.

Japan: Spokesman Hopes Israel Remains 'Committed' to Peace

OW3105144796 Tokyo KYODO in English 1438 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 31 KYODO — Japan hopes that Israel will remain committed to the Middle East peace process no matter what kind of government is formed as a result of Wednesday's national election, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday [31 May].

"Whatever government is formed, we strongly hope it will try to push for the peace process," spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto told a news conference.

Incumbent Prime Minister Shimon Peres, an architect of Middle East peace, narrowly lost to his right-wing rival, Benjamin Netanyahu, in the tightly contested election.

"As for Japan's Middle East policy, we are determined to contribute to the acceleration of the Middle East peace process," Hashimoto said.

Japan: Tokyo Urges Israel To Continue Push for Mideast Peace

OW3105155396 Tokyo KYODO in English 1544 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, June 1 KYODO — Japan wants Israel to continue to push the Middle East Peace process forward under the new government of Prime Minister-Elect Benjamin Netanyahu, a foreign ministry spokesman said early Saturday [1 June].

"We strongly hope for the acceleration of the peace process under the new administration," spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto told a midnight news conference, commenting on Netanyahu's thin victory over Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

The right-wing Netanyahu, leader of the Likud party, edged Peres, an architect of the Middle East peace, 50.4 percent to 49.6 percent in Wednesday's national election in Israel, the result of which was announced Friday.

Hashimoto said Tokyo remains committed to the volatile region's peace process and will continue to promote bilateral relations with Israel.

Japan: Hashimoto Hopes Election Not To Harm Peace Process

OW0106051996 Tokyo KYODO in English 0456 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, June 1 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Saturday [1 June] he hopes the election of Benjamin Netanyahu in the Israeli prime ministerial election will not cause the Middle East peace process to regress.

When asked by reporters to comment on Netanyahu's victory over incumbent Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Hashimoto said, "The result (of the election) is a judgment by the people of Israel, but I hope that it will not reverse the Middle East peace process."

"Because the percentages of votes were so close, I will watch the formation of the new government very carefully," the premier said in front of his official residence in Tokyo.

Netanyahu, leader of the Likud party, edged out Peres, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, 50.4 percent to 49.6 percent in Wednesday's national election in Israel, the result of which was announced Friday.

Japan: Foreign Ministry Said Studying New Israeli Government

OW0306030696 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 2 Jun 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] In reacting to the election of Israeli opposition party Likud leader Natanyahu in the prime ministerial election, the pessimistic view that "it is unavoidable that the peace process in the Middle East will be stagnant" (according to a senior Foreign Ministry official) is prevailing in the Foreign Ministry. However, as there is another view that Mr. Netanyahu's anti-Arab hardline stance "may have been only his election slogan" (according to another senior official), MOFA intends to adopt a wait-and-see attitude regarding the direction the new Israeli Government will take.

After Netanyahu was elected, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto expressed the hope that the new government would maintain the peace process and indicated a basic policy toward the new government, saying "our nation will continue to contribute to peace in the Middle East."

In September 1993, when an agreement to seek peace in the Middle East was reached, (then) Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa announced that the Japanese

Government will provide aid worth $200 million. Japan is already moving ahead on helping appropriate expenses needed for administering the Palestine provisional autonomy and improve such social infrastructure as schools and hospitals. Moreover, Japan takes part in multilateral consultations composed of 30 nations, including Middle East nations, the United States, Russia, and European nations, and is playing a role in giving shape to a project to combat desertification. Furthermore, Japan dispatched a Self-Defense Force unit to the Golan Heights in February to take part in the UN peacekeeping operation (PKO), thus providing personnel support.

Although MOFA realizes it will be about two weeks before the new Israeli Government is inaugurated, it is doing its utmost to collect information because "we cannot predict how the situation will develop" (according to the senior official) as there is a strong possibility that Prime Minister Natanyahu will form a coalition with religious political parties that are more cautious than the Likud in promoting the peace process.

If the Israeli Government led by Netanyahu should follow its initial hardline stance, such as refusal to permit the establishment of the Palestinian state, it is certain that Japan will be required to review its Middle East assistance measures. In addition, although the United Nations decided on 30 May to extend UN PKO activities in the Golan Heights until late November, the propriety of Japan's participation in the PKO will again come into question if the situation there should worsen, including the outbreak of warlike activity.

Japan: Farm Leaders Eyed for Extra 'Jusen' Liquidation Funds

OW0306071296 Tokyo KYODO in English 0546 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, June 3 KYODO — The government and the ruling coalition plan to ask farm-related financial institutions to shoulder an additional financial burden of some 200 billion yen for the liquidation of "jusen" housing loan companies, sources familiar with the jusen problem said Monday [3 June].

In addition, the banks that founded the failed mortgage companies will be asked to take on an extra burden of hundreds of billions of yen in the government-crafted liquidation scheme, the sources said.

If both groups accept the government plan, it will become possible to add around 1 trillion yen to a 1 trillion yen fund to be set up within Deposit Insurance Corp. for stabilizing the financial system.

Alternatively, a separate 1 trillion yen fund could be created which would be used to make up for the 685 billion yen in taxpayers' money earmarked to cover losses to be incurred in the liquidation of the housing loan companies over a period of 15 years, the sources said.

The founding banks of the jusen have balked at shouldering extra burdens on the grounds that not enough is being asked of the farm-related financial institutions, the largest creditor group to the mortgage companies.

If farm-affiliated financial institutions additionally put up some 200 billion yen, the founding banks are to be requested to bear an extra load of around 800 billion yen, the sources said.

Senior finance ministry officials, including Yoshimasa Nishimura, head of the Ministry's Banking Bureau, last week started officially requesting the banks to shoulder more of the load of liquidating the companies they founded.

Japan: LDP's Kato To Testify About Alleged 'Jusen' Donation

OW3105145096 Tokyo KYODO in English 1403 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 31 KYODO — The ruling and opposition parties agreed Friday [31 May] to summon a key ruling coalition official next Tuesday to testify as one of unsworn witnesses before a Diet committee over his alleged taking of a donation from a major debtor to one of the moribund mortgage firms or "jusen," committee members said.

The accord is likely to break the deadlock over Diet debate on six financial bills caused by disagreement over who should be summoned to testify over the alleged donation.

Koichi Kato, secretary general of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), will testify at a House of Representatives ad hoc committee on financial affairs regarding his alleged taking of a 10 million yen donation from now-defunct steel-frame maker Kyowa Co.

Other witnesses will include Shunsaku Hashimoto, head of the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan, committee sources said.

The agreement was reached at a meeting late Friday of managers of the special committee, which was formed to deal mainly with the fiasco relating to the seven failed mortgage firms, from one of which kyowa borrowed money.

At first, the main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) rejected the coalition's proposal that only Kato be summoned before the committee, saying Shigenori Mizumachi, former chief of Kato's support group who has disclosed the donation, should also testify as a sworn witness.

But the coalition side rejected the demand for Mizumachi's testimony and told Shinshinto that questioning of Kato will take place irrespective of the opposition party's attendance at the proposed committee hearing. Shinshinto eventually accepted the coalition offer.

Now that the two sides have reached accord on testimony, the lower house committee may be able to start debate on the bills, which include one related to the use of 685 billion yen in tax money to liquidate the jusen companies under the fiscal 1996 state budget.

Coalition sources said that after Kato testifies, the ruling parties might try to pass the financial bills through the lower house later next week.

Shinshinto plans to hold a party leadership meeting Monday to unify its stance on handling the bills.

Japan: Most Loans of Tokyo Kyodou Bank May Be Irrecoverable

OW0206023896 Tokyo KYODO in English
0209 GMT 2 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, June 2 KYODO — About 85 percent of loans Tokyo Kyodou Bank took over from two failed Tokyo credit unions may be irrecoverable, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN reported Sunday [2 June].

The government-sponsored debt-collecting agency inherited 70 billion yen in bad loans in March 1995 from Tokyo Kyowa Credit Association and Anzen Credit Bank, after the two credit unions went under at the end of 1994.

But 60 billion yen, or 85 percent, of the total was deemed irrecoverable as of the end of March this year, chiefly due to continuing drops in land prices, the business daily said. Land was put up as collateral against the loans.

The 60 billion yen exceeds Tokyo Kyodou Bank's capital of 40 billion yen. The bank would thus plunge into net liabilities if it writes off all of the loans using its existing capital.

Tokyo Kyodou Bank was created in March 1995 to take over operations of the two bankrupt Tokyo credit unions, with the capital equally provided by the Bank of Japan and commercial banks across the nation. The bank also has taken over bad loans left over by another Tokyo-based failed credit union, Cosmo Credit Corp.

In fiscal 1995 which ended in March, Tokyo Kyodou Bank is believed to have written off some 20 billion yen in irrecoverable loans, thus avoiding incurring net liabilities, the newspaper said.

Japan: Lower House Likely To Pass 'Jusen' Bills 'This Week'

OW0206110996 Tokyo KYODO in English
0909 GMT 2 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, June 2 KYODO — A set of six finance-related bills is likely to pass through the House of Representatives late this week, paving the way for the use of 685 billion yen in tax money for the liquidation of seven moribund mortgage firms or "jusen."

Passage is more likely now that the main opposition party, Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), will find it difficult to block a vote after agreeing last Friday to proceed with debate at a special lower house committee set up to discuss the bills in exchange for unsworn Diet testimony by a key coalition leader over his alleged acceptance of a questionable donation.

Koichi Kato, secretary general of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), is to testify before the special committee Tuesday over his allegedly having taken a 10 million yen donation from a major borrower of one of the jusen companies in February 1990.

Shinshinto had made Kato's Diet testimony a prerequisite for debate on the bills, leaving the committee's business stalled for some time.

Shinshinto and the Japanese Communist Party hope Kato's testimony will provide them with ammunition to shelve the bills, including one related to the disbursement of 685 billion yen for the jusen liquidation under the fiscal 1996 budget, party officials say.

But with less than two weeks to go before the Diet ends its current regular session June 19, the ruling coalition aims to wind up question-and-answer sessions at the committee Thursday or Friday for passage of the bills in the full lower house, according to coalition officials.

Coalition officials have said they are confident that the House of Councillors can endorse the bills before the end of the current Diet session if the bills are passed in the lower house this week.

Japan: Donen Edited Video of Reactor Leak in 'Cover-Up'

OW0306123296 Tokyo KYODO in English 1157 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Fukui, Japan, June 3 KYODO — The operator of the fast-breeder reactor Monju, shut down after a major sodium leak last December, edited out parts of a video of the accident before releasing it to the press, an in-house investigation showed Monday [3 June].

The state-run Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp. (donen) has been under fire not only because of the leak, but also because of its attempts to cover up the extent of the leak, including deliberately editing a video taken inside the plant shortly after the accident.

Sources at donen, which is conducting an in-house probe on the cover-up, said donen decided to cut out parts showing the true extent of the damage from the video because of fears that TV might broadcast those parts without a proper explanation.

According to testimonies made by several donen employees to the in-house investigators, the employees agreed at the time of the accident that they could provide the video to newspapers because photographs carried by newspapers always have captions, but providing it to television stations would be considered "awkward," the sources said.

Monju is located in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture, on the sea of Japan coast, nearly 400 kilometers west from Tokyo.

Japan: Information Body on Multimedia Copyrights Seen

OW0306123196 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, June 3 KYODO — The Education Ministry's Agency for Cultural Affairs plans to establish a special organization to store and supply information on multimedia copyrights, agency officials said Monday [3 June].

The agency has drafted an outline to set up the organization, which is expected to start operation as a database system by the year 2000, the officials said.

The agency hopes that the body will directly control copyrights on multimedia in the future, they said.

The move has been prompted by the increasing problems stemming from the complexity of the copyright relationships of multimedia software, such as cd-rom.

The planned organization will exchange information with existing bodies that have data on copyrights, like the Japanese society of rights of authors and composers, and will also collect and maintain information itself for creating a new database.

Through the organization, the users will have access to cross-sectional information on multimedia copyrights held by various organizations.

The agency also plans to build an on-line payment system for copyrights by utilizing an optical fiber network.

The agency earmarked 12 million yen in the fiscal 1995 budget for studying the idea, which was first proposed in 1993 by a subcommittee of the Copyright Council.

North Korea

DPRK: NODONG SINMUN Urges Withdrawal of U.S. Bases in Japan, ROK

SK0306034596 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0321 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 3 (KCNA) — The people's requirement for peace is further growing. In keeping with this demand, the United States should withdraw its military bases from the Northeast Asian region. NODONG SINMUN says this in a by-lined article Sunday.

The people in Okinawa and other parts of Japan continued waging the mass struggle in protest against the deceptive dismantlement and transfer of U.S. military bases, the daily says, and continues:

Just is their call for abolishing the U.S. military bases.

The U.S. military bases in South Korea and Japan are threatening peace and security in the East Asian region and, furthermore, in the Asia-Pacific region.

The United States claims that its military bases in Japan are essential for "peace" and "security" in Asia and "security" in Japan. But this is no more than an excuse to justify the maintenance of the military bases.

The U.S. military bases in Japan and South Korea are the forefront bases for the U.S. East Asia strategy and the U.S. troops stationed there are detached forces for the execution of the U.S. policy of aggression. That is why the United States intends to keep its military bases and troops there and is never trying to withdraw them.

The United States is going to realize its military domination over Asia, by keeping Japan under its military control and using South Korea as a springboard on the pretext of "security".

As long as the U.S. policy of turning North East Asia into its military bases continues, bigger burdens and misfortunes will be imposed upon the people of Japan and South Korea and the situation in northeast Asia and the rest of Asia will continue to be tense.

DPRK: Rio Group Foreign Ministers Reject U.S. Helms-Burton Law

SK0306042096 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 2 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report, a two-day meeting of Rio Group foreign ministers was held in Cochabamba, Bolivia from 27 to 28 May.

At the meeting, member states discussed the issue of jointly standing against [kongdonguro matso nagamyo] the U.S. sanction maneuvers against Cuba and intensifying the struggle against narcotics smuggling, corruption and irregularities.

Participants in the meeting unanimously rejected the U.S. Helms- Burton Law, which was adopted for the purpose of further intensifying the economic blockade against Cuba. They decided to take joint steps against the law.

DPRK: Kim Yong-nam Meets With U.S. Reverend Nelson Graham

SK3105112496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0846 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 31 (KCNA) — Kim Yong- nam, vice-premier and minister of foreign affairs, met and conversed with visiting U.S. Reverend Nelson Graham and his party at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

DPRK: U.S. Reverend Nelson Graham Ends Visit

SK0106104696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 1 (KCNA) — The Rev. Nelson Graham of the United States and his party left here today.

They were seen off at the airport by Yi Chon-min, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Korean Christian Federation.

During their stay they visited the Central Committee of the Korean Christian Federation and saw a circus show.

DPRK: Release by ROK of Pomminyon Dissidents Demanded

SK3105222296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0845 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 31 (KCNA) — The overseas headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) denounced the Kim Yong-sam group's trial of the hardcore members including Chairman Kang Hui-nam of the South side headquarters as the anti-national, anti-reunification criminal act of stamping out all the patriotic forces for reunification in South Korea and recklessly suppressing the reunification movement of the Korean nation.

It said in a statement on May 27 that no matter how desperately the Kim Yong-sam group resort to arms and the "National Security Law" to put the members of the South side headquarters of Pomminnyon and patriotic reunification champions in chain, they will never be able to eradicate Pomminnyon.

We strongly request the Kim Yong-sam regime once again to abolish the "National Security Law" and solemnly urge it in the name of all overseas Koreans aspiring after reunification to unconditionally release all the patriots and entirely ensure the just patriotic activities of Pomminnyon for reunification, stressed the statement.

DPRK: Demonstration Staged in South Against Educational Reforms

SK0106041196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0247 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 1 (KCNA) — More than 2,000 students of the Seoul District Federation of University Student Councils held a fierce anti-"government" demonstration in Seoul on May 31, a South Korean radio said.

The protesters held a rally at Seoul University of Industry that day. At the rally they said that a draft of the "government" concerning educational reform is a reactionary educational system, an imitation of American model, and pressed for its withdrawal.

At the end of the rally they went over to a demonstration in streets.

The demonstrators undauntedly fought, throwing flame bottles at the riot police.

DPRK: ROK Students Reportedly Vow To Join Workers in Struggle

SK0306044796 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0315 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 3 (KCNA) — More than 500 students affiliated with the preparatory committee of the "National Council of General Student Councils" of South Korea on June 1 resolved to wage a solidarity struggle with the workers in order to win victory in the struggle for wage hike this year, according to a report.

They held a rally at Yonsei University and bitterly denounced the Kim Yong-sam group for cracking down on the labour movement while reducing or trying to reduce labour unionists at working places of the public and other domains.

They said that they will fight for the reinstatement of all the dismissed workers in solidarity with the general meetings of the labour unionists of the public works.

DPRK: Hanchongnyon Promises To Counter 'Violence' by Government

SK0306091496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0824 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 3 (KCNA) — A student Chong Myong-ki, chairman of the General Student Council of Chonnam National University of South Korea, in a press conference held in Chonju referred to the resolution of his organisation to strongly counter the violence by the "government" authorities, according to a report.

He was elected chairman of the South Korean Federation of University Student Councils (Hanchongnyon) at the 4th-term inaugural ceremony of "Hanchongnyon" held on May 24.

In case the "government" tries to crack down upon the student movement recklessly, it will face a strong resistance, he noted, saying that as all the people call for the opening to the public of the "presidential election" fund, the U.S. open apology, the complete punishment of the May murderers and securement of educational finance, they will wage a vigorous struggle urging them.

"Hanchongnyon" will do the best to conduct all its activities in a peaceful and lawful way but will strongly counter the unjust violence by the "government", he stressed.

DPRK: Youths, Students Declaration for Peace, Unity Praised

SK2905100796 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0839 GMT 29 May 96

["Firm Determination of Hot-blooded Youths" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 29 (KCNA) — A declaration of youths and students in the North and South of Korea and overseas for peace and great national unity, which was adopted on May 24, is a just patriotic one reflecting the unanimous desire and aspirations of fellow countrymen as well as a firm determination of hot-blooded youths to make 1996 a "year of peace and great national unity" with their united struggle, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed commentary today.

The declaration demands that the United States show sincerity for establishment of a new peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula and that the South Korean authorities release all the arrested patriotic-minded champions of reunification and scrap the anti- reunification "National Security Law". And it also refers to the foundation of a national unified state by confederacy formula and other matters.

It is quite natural that patriotic youths and students have turned out in a struggle to defend peace in the country and make a breakthrough in the work for peaceful reunification in firm unity, the commentary says, and continues:

Youths and students should foil the "civilian"-veiled Kim Yong-sam group in their reactionary campaign against the nation, reunification and peace and, in this process, preserve peace and actively promote great national unity.

The cause of youths and students for peace and great national unity is a just one reflecting the desire of all fellow countrymen and the demand of the times.

No force on earth can block it.

DPRK: ROK's NCNP Says NKP Regime Like Predecessors

SK3105222096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0829 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 31 (KCNA) — The "National Congress for New Politics", an opposition party in South Korea, issued a comment criticizing the "New Korea Party" on May 28, according to a radio report from Seoul.

It said that the leading quarters of the ruling camp do not intend to correct the stance of ignoring the opposition parties and people and that such attitude shows the present "government" is little different from the dictatorial regimes at the close of "Yusin" and the "Fifth Republic".

It urged the "New Korea Party" to lend an ear to the voices of the opposition parties and people and follow the mind of the people.

DPRK Papers Criticize ROK's Labor-Management Relations Policies

SK0106051096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0408 GMT 1 Jun 96

["Repressive Offensive Against Labor Movement" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 1 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets recently raised a hue and cry over "increasing factors of fragile labor-management relations" and threatened to "strictly deal with such collective actions as illegal strike, violence and destruction, and agitation, obstruction and manipulation by a third party by invoking law."

NODONG SINMUN today says this goes to show that they will harshly crack down on the workers' righteous activities for vital rights and democracy, branding them as "illegal, violent and collective."

In a commentary the daily says:

The traitor Kim Yong-sam committed himself to do a lot of things for the workers, but now he is threatening to brutally suppress them.

It is strikingly clear that the "idea on new labor-management relations" brought forward by the traitor some time ago was designed to divert elsewhere the workers' resentment against him and deceive them so that they may remain "machines" reconciled to exploitation and oppression.

Nothing but venom is expected from a viper.

It transpires that the Kim Yong-sam group intends to escape from its doom by resorting to the fascist "new security-oriented rule."

Meanwhile, MINJU CHOSON says the Kim Yong-sam group's repressive order to stamp out the labor movement is not an act of a strong man but a last-ditch effort of a weak man.

DPRK: Reunification Group Issues Bulletin Denouncing ROK

SK0106224696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0951 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 1 (KCNA) — The Secretariat of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea printed the May issue of its bulletin on May 21.

The bulletin in an article calling for strengthening international solidarity with the democratic forces of South Korea in their struggle said that Kim Yong-sam under the veil of "civil" is following the policy of toeing the American line and the anti- reunification policy pursued by the former military dictators and preserving all the repressive means and evil laws.

The bulletin called upon the progressive forces of the world, which value freedom, democracy and human rights, to extend all forms of support and solidarity to the struggle of the South Korean democratic forces.

The bulletin in another article headlined "The Just Stand of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Concerning Peacekeeping Problem in the Korean Peninsula" said that the current situation of the Korean Peninsula was worsened after the South Korean authorities with the backing of the U.S. bellicose quarters fanned up a war fever against the North.

The peace-keeping issue of the Korean Peninsula should be settled by the DPRK and the United States, signatories to the armistice agreement, stressed the bulletin.

DPRK: Hanchongnyon Visitors Make Statement on Reunification

SK0106144796 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0938 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 1 (KCNA) — The country will certainly be reunified not in word but in practice, through the life of youth and students, wrote in their last statement Chong Min- chu and Yi Hye-chong, delegates of the South Korean Federation of University Student Councils (Hanchongnyon) under the South side headquarters of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification, who had visited Pyongyang to participate in the grand national reunification festival celebrating the 50th anniversary of the country's liberation in August last year.

The statement said:

It is a just will and right corresponding to national conscience for people in the North and the South, the true motive force of reunification, to meet to achieve reunification together. The North visit of "Hanchongnyon" was realised to materialize the just meeting of the nation and clarify the will of people in the North and the South for reunification last year.

The "National Security Law" blocking our visit to the North is the biggest obstacle to reunification and, no doubt, a law of division inciting hostility and confrontation, not unity and union of the nation.

How can we talk about reunification under this "law" which defines all meeting, exchange and cooperation with brothers and sisters in the North as criminal acts?

Through precious meeting with brothers and sisters in the North we have been convinced that blocking this just meeting is an anti- national, criminal act.

Achieving cohesion and unity transcending differences in ideology and ideal, religion and system in the common interest of the nation, reunification — this is the achievement of great national unity and it was the realisation of the spirit of confederal formula and the conviction of the building of a confederal country.

DPRK: Pomchonghangnyon Decries ROK Suppression of Dissidents

SK0106225396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 1 (KCNA) — The North side headquarters of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghangnyon) in a statement today criticised the criminal repressive act of the Kim Yong-sam group to stamp out the South Korean Federation of University Student Councils (Hanchongnyon), a patriotic force of South Korea.

The puppet prosecution, the Agency for National Security Planning and other fascist authorities are intensifying the control of and crackdown on students' patriotic action, alleging that the leadership of "Hanchongnyon" is wirepulled by the "pro-North national-liberation faction," and "Hanchongnyon's" pro-North tendency is thought to have gone beyond the danger line.

The Kim Yong-sam group's undisguised fascist repression of Hanchongnyon is a premeditated outrage to stifle the pro- reunification democratic forces of South Korea and a brutality of those bereft of reason, the statement said.

The Kim Yong-sam group's move to stamp out "Hanchongnyon" is their last-ditch effort to evade deep political crisis.

The Kim Yong-sam group should stop, at once, the suppression of South Korea's pro-reunification democratic forces including "Hanchongnyon" and step down from power, it added.

DPRK: Movement Decries Kim Yong-sam's Human Rights 'Violation'

SK0306044196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0317 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 3 (KCNA) — Prisoners of conscience of South Korea totalled 1,589 in three years since the traitor Kim Yong-sam took office, according to a report.

Persons who are suffering from all manner of pains and persecution in prisons on charge of violation of the notorious "National Security Law" account for nearly 50 percent of all the prisoners of conscience.

Opening this fact to the public, the family movement for realizing democracy denounced Kim Yong-sam's violation of human rights, saying that "the 'civilian government', though it advertized reform, is trying to increase prisoners of conscience and bridge over the crisis as it faces a political turning point."

DPRK: Large Demonstrations in Seoul Increase by 40 Percent

SK0306110996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1057 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 3 (KCNA) — Large-scale demonstrations were held in Seoul every four days during the first five months this year, according to a report.

They are 40 percent up as compared with the same period of last year.

These fierce and large demonstrations were staged with the ever mounting protest of students and people from all walks of life in Seoul calling for the opening to the public of the "presidential election" fund of the traitor Kim Yong-sam and the punishment of the Kwangju murderers and with their intensified action for existence.

DPRK: NODONG SINMUN Denounces ROK's Drill Revision Plan

SK0106024296 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0855 GMT 31 May 96

[NODONG SINMUN 31 May commentary: "The True Colors of the Warmonger Have Been Revealed Once Again"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The true colors of the Kim Yong-sam ring as a group of bellicose elements and warmongers who enjoy the fire game have been revealed again. According to reports, a few days ago, the puppets held a Chongwadae [presidential offices] senior secretaries meeting and schemed to totally revise the so-called crisis training, including civil defense drills and the Ulchi war exercise, as though there was an actual war. The puppets advertise that the revision is necessary to eliminate the perfunctoriness from the existing crisis trainings.

As the puppets stated, the game to make a total revision of the crisis training stems from the vicious attempt to intensify their various fire games of war, to which they mobilized the general public, in a real war atmosphere. The Kim Yong-sam bellicose elements have made public the plan of northward aggression dubbed the five-phase operation No. 5027, spurred on the arms buildup of the puppet army, navy, and air force, and conducted various war exercises against us daily. We cannot overlook this now that they try to unlimitedly increase the frequency of military exercises and make more residents the prey of guns.

Presently, our country's situation is extremely acute. The Kim Yong-sam bellicose group has turned the DMZ south of the Military Demarcation Line into a fully militarized zone and a new starting position to attack the northern half of the Republic. In league with foreign forces, they are frantically conducting various fire games of war and military provocations aimed at northward aggression in the sky, on the land, and on the seas of South Korea. Now, the eruption of a new war on the Korean peninsula is a matter of time.

At such a time, the Kim Yong-sam ring attempts to more frantically conduct military exercises to drive out the residents as bullet shields in a real war atmosphere. This shows that their frenzy of war of northward aggression has reached an extremely reckless point.

Not content with mobilizing the entire puppet forces, police, and administrative personnel, the group of traitors has drawn out and stirred the general population. Needless to say, this stems from the criminal intent to extremely aggravate the already acute situation of our country, complete the preparations for war of northward aggression, and eventually ignite the fratricidal conflict.

The puppets said that the existing crisis training needs to be totally revised in accordance with a real war atmosphere because the old program was conducted perfunctorily. This is a mere sophism to justify and unlimitedly intensify the provocative war exercises of northward aggression that they have conducted as annual events, such as the civil defense drills and the Ulchi exercise.

All war exercises of northward aggression previously conducted by the Kim Yong-sam bellicose group were frantically conducted in the atmosphere of a simulated war attacking the North. Nevertheless, the puppets talk about the perfunctoriness of the crisis training and try to double the intensity of the fire game commotion. This only more vividly exposes their ugly nature of being obsessed with the fancy of war of northward aggression.

Leaving the Kim Yong-sam bellicose group intact, we can never get rid of the root of war from our country, and our nation can never evade the dreadful disaster of nuclear calamity inflicted by outside forces. A bellicose element and war maniac like traitor Kim Yong- sam should no longer be allowed to live in our nation. A mad dog deserves to be beaten with a club. The Kim Yong-sam bellicose group, which draws the fire cloud of war over the nation, deserves the stern punishment of history and the people.

DPRK: ROK Stages 'War Gamble' Against North 29-30 May

SK0106025696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0239 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 1 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets frantically staged a war gamble of firing guns on the ground and in the air in the forefront area of central and western sectors of the front, according to military sources.

On May 29 and 30 some 1,300 South Korean military planes launched a criminal aerial war gamble in the sky above the West Sea off the Sosan Peninsula, South Korea, aiming at surprise forestalling strike at major strategic objects in the west coast and indepth area of the northern half of Korea.

On May 28 scores of puppet air force fighter planes were engaged in a striking exercise in the sky above forefront areas of Tongduchon, Kapyong and Pochon, South Korea, to support the ground puppet army units overheated in the offensive operation exercise against the North.

Between the 28th and 30th heavy tank groups, 155 and 105 mm artillery groups and puppet army soldiers fired hundreds of shells and some 1,300 bullets in the forefront area of the central and western sectors of the front, getting on our nerves.

DPRK: Japan Senator Criticized for 'Negating' Comfort Women Issue

*SK0206092096 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0751 GMT 2 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 2 (KCNA) — Sin Hui-ku, director of the Social Affairs of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), released a statement on May 30 accusing Japanese Liberal Senator Tadashi Itagaki of totally negating the "comfort women for the army" issue dealt with by textbooks at a meeting of the Liberal Democratic Party, Tokyo-based Korean News Service reported.

By doing so, he has revealed an intention to not only deny historical facts but overrule even Japan's elementary measures concerning the issue, Sin said. He has also openly negated a United Nations resolution.

The Japanese Government should take a serious view of some politicians' repeated utterances, honestly apologize and compensate for the Japanese imperialists' colonial domination in the past and make sincere efforts for the normalization of DPRK-Japan ties, the Chongnyon official urged.

DPRK: Japanese Diet Member Criticized for 'Comfort Women' Remarks

*SK0306085396 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0831 GMT 3 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, June 1 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA) — Chae Hong-yol, chairman of the Union of Korean Teachers in Japan, and Yi Pok-nam, chairman of the Central Educational Association of Koreans in Japan, respectively released statements on May 30 denouncing Tadashi Itagaki, a member of the House of Councillors of Japan from the Liberal Democratic Party, for his clamouring about the "comfort women for the army" issue.

Tadashi Itagaki denied historical facts, saying that Japan's textbooks deal with the "comfort women" issue "without being based on historical facts" and he took issue with other matters contained in textbooks, noted Chae Hong-yol, and refuted Tadashi Itagaki's argument.

Chae called attention to the fact that in the past period some politicians of Japan frequently said that Japan's colonial domination over Korea was "not an aggression", and denounced this as an ill-intentioned act to justify the Japanese imperialists' aggression of Korea and their colonial domination and as a challenge to the Korean people.

He attributed the frequent remarks to the fact that the Japanese Government has not abandoned its wrong attitude — not to make an apology and compensation for its past colonial domination over Korea.

Yi Pok-nam demanded that Tadashi Itagaki immediately withdraw his words and make an apology and that the Japanese Government accept international public opinion concerning its colonial domination over Korea, unconditionally compensate and take sincere attitude for the normalisation of state relations between the DPRK and Japan.

DPRK: Visiting Japan Prefectural Group Urges Normalized Ties

*SK0206090496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0746 GMT 2 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 2 (KCNA) — Takero Obara, head of a delegation of the Iwate Prefectural People's Council for the normalization of Japan-Korea friendship and relations, in an interview with KCNA held that relations between Japan and Korea should be normalized at an early date.

It is attributable to the one-sided policy of Japan toward South Korea that the normalization of diplomatic relations has not been realised at present, he said, and continued:

The Japanese Government should come out to realise the normalization of Japan-Korea diplomatic relations in the spirit of independence. The normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries should be materialized on the basis of the historic joint declaration of the three parties and an agreement on resuming DPRK-Japan talks.

The Japanese Government must make state compensations for "comfort women for the army" and sincerely repent of the colonial rule over Korea, which will make substantial progress in improving Japan-Korea relations.

DPRK Daily Urges Japan To Compensate 'Comfort Women'

*SK0106225596 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0955 GMT 1 Jun 96*

["Japan Urged To Make State Compensation Over 'Comfort Women' Issue" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 1 (KCNA) — The "comfort women for the army" issue can be resolved only when the Japanese Government admits its responsibility for the crime, conducts a full survey of the issue and makes public its results, makes a state compensation to the victims including the dead and their families and finds out and punishes those responsible for the crime, says NODONG SINMUN today.

In an article the daily says:

The "comfort women" issue is a case of unheard-of anti-ethical crime politicized by the Japanese Government and perpetrated with the government and military power.

The Japanese authorities, who have refused to assume state responsibility for the crime, had the "Asia Peace National Fund for Women" set up in the middle of last year to gather money for former "comfort women" who are still alive.

It has been said that "compensation" to each woman will amount to about 20,000 dollars and those to be compensated total about 300.

What the victims and international community demand is not such an amount of money. Organizations of victims formed in different countries have made clear that they would receive only state apology and compensation.

The victims of the Japanese imperialists' policy of "comfort women for the army" total some 200,000. But the Japanese authorities intend to compensate only 300 women through the civilian fund. Then, what will they do for the others?

If the Japanese authorities have a shred of elementary morality and conscience, they, though belatedly, must take an honest attitude towards this issue.

DPRK: Russian Newspaper Applauds DPRK's 'Independent Politics'

SK0106144696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0934 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 1 (KCNA) — The Russian newspaper PATRIOT No. 21 carried an article headlined "Wonderful Reality of Korea." The source of strength in North Korean society braving Western pressure comes from independent politics administered by Comrade Kim Chong-il, the leader of the Korean people, the newspaper said, and went on:

The essence of the independent politics is to preserve the sovereignty of the country and the nation invariably, defend the interest of people and rely on their strength in any hard condition. This is the basic political philosophy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the important mode of existence of the Korean nation.

Comrade Kim Chong-il consistently holds fast to the principle of independence in all fields of society and regards it as the most preferential and greatest task of the nation. That is why the principle of great independence is prevailing in all ideological, political, economic, cultural and military sectors in socialist Korea.

People of this country are not vacillating in any threat or pressure by big powers.

DPRK: Hwang Chang-yop Meets Russian Liberal Party Delegation

SK0306103696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0949 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 3 (KCNA) — Hwang Chang- yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, today met and had a friendly talk with the visiting delegation of officials of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] of Russia led by Galina Lebedeva, chairman of the Women's Association aiding the State Duma.

The head of the delegation said on the occasion that she conveys LDP Chairman V.V. Zhirinovskiy's best wish for a longevity to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Zhirinovskiy supports the chuche idea and its theories and is making effort to develop the friendly relations with the Korean people, she added.

She was deeply moved by her first visit to Korea, she said. "Wherever we went, we could know well how the idea and theory of chuche have been applied in Korean society."

"We were green with envy in particular when we inspected the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, kindergartens and schools," she said. "Korea spares nothing for the future."

She stressed that Korea owes all its achievements to the outstanding leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Receives Gift From Russian LDP Delegation

SK0306105196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0953 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 3 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from V.V. Zhirinovskiy, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] of Russia.

The gift was conveyed to an official concerned by Galina Lebedeva, chairman of the Women's Association aiding the State Duma of Russia, on a visit to Korea.

DPRK: Visiting KPA Delegation Meets With PRC Military Leaders

SK0306021296 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 30 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Zhang Wannian, vice chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission, met yesterday with a friendship delegation of the Korean People's Army [KPA] led by KPA Colonel General Chang Chang-yol, which is now visiting China.

In the meeting, Comrade Zhang Wannian stated that the two countries of China and the DPRK are intimate neighbors like lips and teeth and that the armies and peoples of the two countries have continued their friendly relations.

Comrade Zhang Wannian stated: In particular, during the past fatherland liberation war, the armies and peoples of the two countries deepened their friendship, which was established in blood, in the war against the common enemy, sharing the fate with each other.

He stated that friendship between China and the DPRK is the friendship forged personally by President Mao Zedong and President Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people. He stressed that the Chinese people and Army treasure this friendship and that further developing friendship between China and the DPRK is the firm and invariable policy of China's party and government.

He stated that the Korean people have registered great successes in the struggle to defend and build socialism in the past under the wise leadership of President Kim Il-song.

He stressed that he firmly believes that the Korean people will make Korea richer under the wise leadership of Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The meeting was attended by Wu Quanxu, deputy chief of general staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army; and Chu Chang-chun, our ambassador to this country.

DPRK: Protocol on Science, Technology Signed With PRC

SK0206092296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0756 GMT 2 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 2 (KCNA) — A protocol was signed at the 35th meeting of the inter-governmental committee for cooperation of science and technology between the DPRK and China held in Beijing on May 31.

The protocol was inked by Vice-Chairman of the State Commission of Science and Technology of Korea Kim Ung-ho, who is Korean side chairman of the Committee for Cooperation, and Vice-Minister of the State Science and Technology Commission of China Han Dejian, who is Chinese side chairman of the Committee for Cooperation, on behalf of their governments.

DPRK: Pakistani Prime Minister Sends Relief Aid to DPRK

SK3105110996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 31 (KCNA) — Relief material from Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived in the wake of flood damage in Korea.

The relief material was delivered at Nampo Port today with due ceremony.

Present at the ceremony were Vice-Minister of Food Administration Paek Man-ho and other officials concerned and Pakistani Ambassador to Korea Rehmdil Bhatti and embassy officials.

At the ceremony, the Pakistani ambassador hoped that although five thousand tons of rice from her excellency the Pakistani prime minister is not a large amount, it will contribute to the development of friendly relations between the two countries and to the Korean people's recovery from flood damage, if only a little.

DPRK: Pakistani Ruling Party Delegation Ends Visit

SK0106104896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 1 (KCNA) — The delegation of the Pakistan People's Party led by Qayyum Nizami, political advisor to the party's chairwoman and member of the party Central Executive Committee, left here today after a 12-day visit to Korea.

During their stay in Korea they visited Mangyongdae, the Party Founding Museum, the Tower of the Chuche Idea, the West Sea Barrage, the Three Revolution Exhibition and other places in Pyongyang and local areas.

DPRK: Signature Campaign Held Abroad Supporting 'Peace Proposal'

SK0306044696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0323 GMT 3 Jun 96

[All names are as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 3 (KCNA) — Signature campaign was held in different countries in support of the new peace proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Signature papers were signed by Stevan Mirkovic, president of the presidency of the Communist Workers' Movement of Yugoslavia, on behalf of all the members of his movement, the general secretary of the Nasser Party of Egypt, on behalf of 300,000 party members and supporters of the party program, the national chairman of the Christian Democratic Union of Madagascar on behalf of 550,000 members of his union and Eric Sealy, leader of the People's Pressure Movement of Barbados, on behalf of 6,000 members of his movement.

DPRK: Branch of Yugoslavia-Korea Friendship Association Formed

SK0306091596 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0836 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 3 (KCNA) — An inaugural meeting of the Cacak Branch of the Yugoslavia-Korea Friendship Association was held on May 28.

Present there were Ratko Krsmanovic, chairman of the National Committee of the League of Communists-Movement for Yugoslavia, Nikola Bucetic [spelling of names as received], chairman of the Yugoslavia-Korea Friendship Association, officials of party and power organs and people from all walks of life in Morava District and Cacak County.

The chairman of the branch of the Friendship Association was elected and the Executive Committee of the branch was formed after speeches were made.

A letter to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting.

DPRK: Yi Chong-ok, Kim Yong-nam Meet Yemeni Delegation 3 Jun

SK0306104096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0952 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 3 (KCNA) — DPRK Vice- President Yi Chong-ok met and had a friendly conversation with a Yemeni delegation of the Foreign Ministry led by Vice-Minister Abdu 'Ali Abd-al-Rahman, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kim Chang-yong and charge d'affaires ad interim of the Yemeni Embassy here Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad al-Khamry.

The head of the delegation said he came to Korea with the best wishes of his excellency the Yemeni president for longevity to His Excellency Kim Chong-il, the great leader of the Korean people.

He said he was well aware of the efforts made by his excellency President Kim Il-song for the country's reunification. The Yemeni people actively support the Korean people in the effort for peaceful reunification of the country, he added.

Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, too, met and conversed with the delegation in a friendly atmosphere.

DPRK Officials Received by Australians, Zairians, Libyans

SK3105222396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0842 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 31 (KCNA) — Peter Symon, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Australia, when he met a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea, said that Korea, a socialist state standing at the outpost against imperialism, is positively supported by people the world over.

He said his party is encouraged by the socialist ideology and philosophy of Korea and his party would wage the struggle for the socialist cause to the end with a firm confidence in the victory of socialism.

Ngoy Nduba, secretary general of the Lumumba Democratic Party of Zaire, met the Korean ambassador and extended full support and solidarity to the struggle of the Workers' Party and people of Korea to establish a new peace mechanism in the Korean Peninsula and achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country by means of confederacy.

Milud al-Mahdabi, general secretary of the Permanent Secretariat of the Organisation of Socialists in the Mediterranean, when he met the Korean ambassador to Libya, said that his organisation denounces the U.S. imperialists' interference and aggressive moves against Korea and Libya and would positively support and encourage the Workers' Party and people of Korea in their struggle to achieve the independent reunification of the country.

He expressed full support and solidarity to the position of the Workers' Party and people of Korea concerning the grave situation prevailing in the Korean Peninsula.

DPRK: NODONG SINMUN: 'We Will Certainly Be Victors'

SK0306082896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0822 GMT 3 Jun 96

["We Will Certainly Be Victors" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, June 3 (KCNA) — We will certainly be victors.

This is the conviction of certain victory and confidence of Korea, which is dynamically advancing along the most righteous road, a path of truth, for the accomplishment of the cause of chuche, the noblest in history.

NODONG SINMUN today says this in a signed political essay captioned "We Will Certainly Be Victors".

It says that the Korean people are undauntedly fighting and dynamically advancing with the conviction that they will certainly be victors, no matter what desperate efforts the enemies make.

It quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"Our people have the justness of the socialist cause of chuche as their firm conviction, so they are moving steadily along the road of socialism in spite of the anti-socialist storms."

The political essay further says:

A fierce confrontation between socialism and capitalism is conducted. The enemies have left no stone unturned to stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the close of the 20th century. This has no effect on the DPRK, which still remains an unconquerable fortress of the people armed with the revolutionary optimism.

As we are convinced of the justness of the chuche cause, we keep absolute faith in victory.

General Kim Chong-il is the great incarnation of justice as well as the symbol of the great victory of the chuche cause.

"Don't expect any changes from me." This bomb declaration of our general full of great faith came when the Koreans suffered the greatest misfortune in the history spanning 5,000 years, when the focus of the world was on Korea concerning its future road and when our enemies were hell-bent on spreading all kinds of allegations and rumors that there would be some "changes" in Korea. This represents the great general's set will to creditably carry forward the chuche cause without a moment's wavering and the slightest vacillation.

The winner has the last laugh. Champions of the just cause are victors, though they may pass away, and no force on earth can bring the people to their knees, a people who rose up with death-defying determination.

We are accomplishing the most righteous cause in history under the great leader who is a peerlessly great man. We, therefore, will certainly be victors in the struggle for the accomplishment of the chuche cause.

South Korea

ROK Paper Notes Ambassador Laney's Trip to Washington

SK2505065796 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 25 May 96 p 3

[By reporter Kang Tae-ho]

[FBIS Translated Text] James Laney, U.S. ambassador to the ROK, left for home on 23 May to discuss major pending issues, such as rice aid to North Korea and the four-way talks on the Korean peninsula.

It has been learned that Ambassador Laney will be in the United States until 11 June and will meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Winston Lord, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, to review the U.S. policy related to the recent situation on the Korean peninsula.

Ambassador Laney's return to Washington is significant since it is taking place at a time when observers note that the United States will give humanitarian food aid to North Korea early June in response to the U.N. relief agency's call for a second round of food aid to North Korea.

A diplomatic source in Seoul said that Ambassador Laney will also discuss the itinerary for the ROK-U.S. summit talks in case President Kim Yong-sam attends the Atlanta Olympiads in July.

ROK: U.S. Ambassador on Need for New Mechanisms for N-S Peace

SK0206025696 Seoul MUNHWA ILBO in Korean 29 May 96 p 2

[YONHAP report from Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 28 May, James Laney, U.S. ambassador to the ROK, said that to settle peace on the Korean peninsula, "a new communication mechanism and approach for reciprocal action" is necessary between South and North Korea to further prevent the possibility of a war, and stated: "It is desirable to seek interim and parallel mechanisms to satisfy the important needs of the two sides."

Ambassador Laney revealed this during a news conference on North Korean affairs at the National Press Club in Washington.

In connection with the four-way talks, Ambassador Laney said: "This is by no means a scheme, it is a sincere proposal. We will continue to make efforts for North Korea to respond to this proposal. This is the best opportunity for North Korea to improve its situation."

Also, regarding YOMIURI SHIMBUN's report that the DPRK-U.S. negotiations will make "comprehensive" progress beginning in June, he repeatedly reminded: "The negotiations on missiles, on the return of the remains of U.S. soldiers killed during the Korean war, and on the establishment of liaison offices between the DPRK and the United States held in the past were all in accordance with the agreed framework." He denied this report by saying: "This is nothing but an assumption not based on fact."

In this connection, Ambassador Laney emphasized: "South and North Korea will be able to seek interim and parallel mechanisms that meet the important needs of the two sides."

Ambassador Laney revealed that no additional plan has been made for negotiations on opening liaison offices between the DPRK and the United States, and additional easing of economic sanctions against the North which the United States is "currently examining" will be carried out in "accordance" with the four-way talks issue.

ROK Editorial Describes 'Worries' About Richardson's DPRK Visit

SK3105051096 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 30 May 96 p 3

[Editorial: "Four-Way Talks and Food Shortages"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We had mixed feelings of expectation and worry when U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson and his entourage entered North Korea. Our expectation was that he might be able to bring about a breakthrough in the tangled inter-Korean issues, such as the four-way talks. At the same time, we worried that his visit might help create a situation where North Korean-U.S. relations go separately from the promotion of inter-Korean relations, on the principle that establishing peace on the Korean peninsula is a separate issue from promoting North Korean-U.S. relations.

Looking at the package he unwrapped upon returning from his visit to North Korea, we find that the worries outweigh the expectations. Upon his return from his trip to North Korea, Congressman Richardson said that although he had met senior North Korean officials and stressed the importance of the four-way talks, urging them to accept it, he had the impression that it was unlikely North Korean attention would be diverted elsewhere until North Korea solves the problem of food shortages, because North Korean attention is focused only on its critical food situation.

The issue of giving rice aid to North Korea is an embarrassing one for the ROK Government, because the ROK's stance on this issue is likely to be viewed as if the ROK were blocking other countries' efforts to send humanitarian food aid to North Korea.

However, those who view our stance in this way forget that we unconditionally provided North Korea with 150,000 tons of rice last year. Our simple demand to North Korea is that we will give it rice and it should stop vilifying the South and creating military tension, such as the armed provocation on the Military Demarcation Line [MDL].

Some may say that rice is one thing and the provocation on the MDL is another, but this is not true. The North Korean food situation and the issue of a peace settlement on the Korean peninsula are closely related.

Our view is that the international community, including the United States, should not be focused on the North Korean food shortages alone, but should appreciate the ROK's view as well. In this connection, we express strong worries that Congressman Richardson's North Korean visit has a potential danger of leading the U.S. policy toward a line of aid first and settlement later.

In short, if North Korea's food shortages are as critical as reported, it should simply come forward to the four-way talks.

ROK Daily on ROK-U.S. 'Difference' Over DPRK Military Moves

SK3105151696 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 31 May 96 p 4

[Article by Ham Yong-chun: "'Contrast' Between Sensitive ROK and Relaxed United States — ROK-U.S. Difference in Viewing North Korean Military Moves"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was recently revealed that there has been a difference in views between the ROK and the United States toward North Korea's military moves.

While our government and military have been sensitive to North Korea's local provocations committed since it declared the Armistice Agreement invalid in early April, the U.S. Government and U.S. Forces in South Korea have assessed them as ordinary acts not much different from those in the past.

In an interview with Jim Coles, spokesman for the UN Command, by WOLGAN CHOSON [THE MONTHLY CHOSON] some time ago, Coles said that the ROK military and government showed a superfluous reaction to the DMZ situation which occurred last month. However, facing fierce protests touched off by his remarks, he explained that "his statement was reported erroneously." Following this, in an official briefing, spokesman for the U.S. Defense Department Kenneth Bacon made similar remarks.

On 29 May (28 May in the United States), one day after North Korean pilot defector Capt. Yi Chol-su (30) held a news conference, Spokesman Bacon made official remarks that "the North Korean Army's military preparedness is at its lowest level in a year, and there have been no signs of intensive training in North Korea for the past year." He said this apparently to refute Capt Yi's statement that North Korea has recently mapped out "a plan to occupy South Korea within seven days" and has accelerated large-scale military exercises.

Needless to say, Spokesman Bacon's remarks were outwardly related to an individual statement by a defector. However, the background from which the U.S. Government promptly responded to the remarks of an individual defector has caused speculation that Spokesman Bacon's remarks were indirectly aimed at our government, which has strengthened its anti-air raid warning system, taking North Korea's recent provocations seriously.

Concerning this, Colonel John Leitz [name as transliterated], a spokesman for and public information officer of the U.S. Forces in the ROK, said that "Mr. Bacon's comment meant that it is difficult to find out what is new from Captain Yi's statement, that North Korea's present situation is not something that we could not anticipate in the past, and that we do not have to prepare for any immediate eventualities."

An official in the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command stated that there is no difference between the ROK and the U.S. side in their awareness of the basic situation in which North Korea's military power is very serious and could possibly commit military provocations. However, one may sense a difference between the two sides concerning short-term moves by the North Korean Army.

The two nations agree that North Korea is heading toward a collapse. However, the ROK believes that "North Korea would seek a war as a last resort, and now is the most likely time for this," while the U.S. side believes that "North Korea can hardly provoke a war because its food and energy shortages are hopeless."

In the meantime, Kim In-chong, policy planning officer in the Ministry of National Defense [MND], pointed out that "the one who is the party directly involved in North-South confrontation is us, not the United States. Taking into account the reality in which we are confronted by an enemy only 40 kilometers away, we cannot but keenly and sensitively react to every movement of the enemy." Another relevant official in the MND observed that "the fact that the North Korean Army's provocative acts are continuing is a truth. Nevertheless, the two sides are making different observations about those acts. This is the actual problem. This being the case, we must strengthen our vigilance and alertness. On the contrary, the U.S. side must consider the Clinton Administration's appeasement policy toward North Korea and other political issues, including DPRK-U.S. dialogue, with the result being a difference of opinion."

A senior figure in the ROK military has said that "the United States, which should take a wide view of the conflicts taking place in every part of the world, may possibly regard it as a matter of no importance that North Korea's provocations have been repeatedly carried out in Panmunjom and the like. However, as for our army, which is actually responsible for security, it cannot sympathize with such an observation. This notwithstanding, it is not desirable that our politicians noisily make an issue of such moves by North Korea."

ROK: JCS Chairman 'Regrets' U.S. Commander's Announcement

SK0106024096 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 1 Jun 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gen. Kim Tong-chin, chairman of the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff [JCS], Thursday expressed his regrets to U.S. Forces Korea Commander Gen. Gary Luck through an aide over a recent announcement by the U.S. Department of Defense saying the military preparedness of North Korea was at its lowest level in years.

A senior ROK JCS source said yesterday, "Gen. Kim pointed out that the Pentagon assessment is incompatible with that of the Korean military and the exposure of such a discrepancy could compromise the joint defense posture the two countries."

The source said that Gen. Luck told the ROK JCS officer who called on him to convey Gen Kim's message that his opinion about the military situation in the North is not in line with the Pentagon's. Luck was quoted as saying that the U.S. JCS also does not accede to what the Pentagon spokesman said about the North's state of war preparedness.

Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said, asked to comment on remarks by North Korean defector Yi Chol-su, "The North Korean army is probably less well prepared for a major military action than it has been in recent years."

ROK, U.S. To Discuss Preparations for SCM in Hawaii 4-6 Jun

SK0306040996 Seoul YONHAP in English 0246 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, June 3 (YONHAP) — South Korean and U.S. defense officials will meet at the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii Tuesday through Thursday to discuss preparations for the Korea-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) slated for October this year in Washington D.C, the Defense Ministry here said Monday.

The officials will hold four committee meetings — policy review subcommittee, logistics cooperation committee, security cooperation committee and defense technology and industrial cooperation committee, the ministry said.

The South Korean contingent will be headed by Assistant Defense Minister for Policy Lt. Gen. Pak Yong-ok and Director of Policy and Plans Office Maj. Gen. Kim In-chong, while the U.S. delegation will be led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asia-Pacific Kurt Campbell and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Affairs Alfred G. Volkman.

They are expected to discuss North Korea's economic difficulties and the security situation on the Korean peninsula as well as the so-called "four-way talks" proposed by the two nations.

They also plan to discuss ways to promote military cooperation between the two nations.

ROK: U.S. Said To Ask for ROK's 'Understanding' on Aid to DPRK

SK0306022296 (Internet) The Joong-Ang Ilbo WWW in English 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington and Tokyo reportedly have already decided on a policy of providing North Korea with additional food aid and are currently conducting consultations with the South Korean government. A diplomatic source in Washington said Saturday, "the US Department of State notified South Korea on May 31 of its decision to provide North Korea with additional food aid, and sounded out Seoul on the matter." The source also stated, "Washington reportedly explained that the size of the aid will be small and merely be a symbolic gesture as it will be made on a humanitarian basis, and asked for Seoul's understanding."

ROK: U.S. Reportedly Establishes Legal Basis for Aid to DPRK

SK0306082596 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 3 Jun 96 p 2

[YONHAP from Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned that the United States has established a legal foundation to support North Korea through a revision of section PL-480 of the Agriculture Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, the revision having been in effect since early April.

The Federal Agriculture Improvement Reform Act of 1996, which has been formally effectuated following deliberations in the U.S. Congress and with the signature of the President, has drastically adjusted PL-480 under Title II on trade, and has revised regulations so that financial support under PL-480 can be provided to such international organizations as the World Food Program [WFP].

In a telephone conversation last weekend, a USAID [U.S. Agency for International Development] official confirmed: "This is the first time the U.S. Government's financial support has been stipulated in a law so that such support can be provided under PL- 480 to an international organization like the WFP."

To the question "Does this mean the United States can provide food aid to North Korea under PL-480, using the WFP as a deliverer?" an official from the U.S. State Department said "there is legally no problem" and that "in this case, PL-480 and the U.S. Law on Banning Trade With Hostile Countries (otherwise known as the Enemy Act) are entirely separate matters."

The State Department official noted that "PL-480 is a very broad regulation," adding: "The Enemy Act literally bans individuals or enterprises in the United States from doing business with hostile countries such as North Korea. Thus, the U.S. Government's trade involvement with North Korea does not apply to the act."

However, these officials from USAID and the State Department stressed that the U.S. Government's present policy to provide food aid to North Korea has "not drastically changed" simply because PL- 480 has been adjusted.

ROK: DPRK Reportedly Asks U.S. for 100,000 Tons of Food Grains

SK0306101796 Seoul YONHAP in English
1010 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, June 3 (YONHAP) — North Korea last month asked the United States for 100,000 tons of food grains, it was belatedly learned Monday.

A diplomatic source in Seoul said the request was made to U.S. Rep. Bill Richardson (D.) during his visit to Pyongyang, and Richardson reported it to U.S. President Bill Clinton on his return home.

The source said that when Richardson was conferring with North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu in Pyongyang, Yi Hyong- chol, director general of Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry American Affairs Bureau, stepped forward and expressed his government's wish to have 100,000 tons of food grains from the United States.

"Despite the request, we believe Washington won't provide any significant amount of foods to North Korea," he said.

During his farewell press meeting in Seoul on May 29, the American legislator said that in North Korea he confirmed the serious food situation there.

ROK: Red Cross Appeals For Aid To Avert Famine in DPRK

SK2905091896 Seoul YONHAP in English
0752 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, May 29 (YONHAP) — The International Federation of the Red Cross and Crescent Societies (IFRC) appealed for 5.25 million U.S. dollars in aid Wednesday for North Korea to avert a famine caused by the devastating floods last summer.

IFRC Secretary-general George Weber made the appeal at a press conference here after a four-day visit to the North that ended Tuesday. It is the second such appeal following one made in March.

There is an immediate need for 750,000 dollars to feed 130,000 flood victims that rely entirely on ifrc relief, until July, and another 4.5 million dollars will be needed to last until the October harvest, weber said.

The figures are based on surveys conducted by the two IFRC teams that have been stationed in North Korea since last October, according to weber.

The slow rehabilitation of 400,000 hectares of arable land from the flood damage has delayed the transplantation of rice seedlings for one or two weeks, Weber said. The situation has been made even worse by transportation facilities and fuel shortages, he added.

Weber said he met with Vice President Yi Chong-ok Monday. When asked by reporters, Weber said nothing political, such as the proposed four-way talks, was discussed between them and no indication of political intentions.

ROK Government To 'Soon' Permit Private Food Aid to DPRK

SK3105083396 Seoul YONHAP in English
0754 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 31 (YONHAP) — The government is expected to permit civic and religious organizations to offer grain relief to North Korean flood victims from a humanitarian standpoint soon.

A government official said Friday, "Now that the United States and international agencies are poised to provide the North with additional relief aid, and some religious and dissident organizations are defying the government's current position on that issue, it has become necessary to review the government policy on the matter."

Even if the government reverses its policy, however, "relief assistance to North Korea should be promoted in an orderly manner that will help improve inter-Korean relations," the official added.

This indicates that the current practice of channeling all private relief aid to North Korea through the Korean National Red Cross will remain unchanged.

ROK: Red Cross Directly Distributes ROK Red Cross Aid in DPRK

SK3105110396 Seoul YONHAP in English
0935 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 31 (YONHAP) — The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) informed the Korean National Red Cross (KNRC) Friday that the edible oil KNRC sent to North Korea last May 16 had been distributed to flood victims in the North, KNRC reported.

IFRC said that the 186,624 liters of edible oil were transported to Nampo Harbor on May 17 and promptly distributed to flood-area residents in the presence of IFRC and North Korean officials.

The people provided with the edible oil were in the flood- stricken areas of Sinuiju, Pakchon and Chongju of North Pyong-an Province; Huichon, Kopung and Tongsin of Chagang Province; Paekchon of South

Hwanghae Province; Unpa, Insan, Sinpyong and Singye of North Hwanghae Province; and Ichon and Chorwon of Kangwon Province.

The edible oil worth 330 million won (roughly 423,000 dollars) was procured with funds raised by South Korean religious and social organizations for North Korean flood victims.

The North Korean Red Cross on last March 22 appealed through IFRC for edible oil, rice and soybeans.

ROK Not To Allow Large Conglomerates' Grain Aid to DPRK

SK0306063796 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 3 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Han Ki-hung]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that the government plans not to allow large conglomerates to provide grain assistance to North Korea even if private organizations are allowed to do so in the future.

A high-ranking government official said on 2 June: "We are concerned about the possibility that large conglomerates will enter into an excessive competition if the government completely permits civilian-level grain relief. Large conglomerates, which are pushing ahead with making inroads into the North Korean market, are likely to provide excessive amount of grain to North Korea to win the North Korean authorities' favor." The official added: "The government has yet to decide on the approval of civilian-level grain assistance to the DPRK. However, even if civilian-level grain assistance is allowed, the government plans to unofficially explain its position to large conglomerates and ask for their cooperation."

Coinciding with the announcement of the World Food Program's report on the status of the North Korean situation, which is to be made in early June, the ROK Government is expected to allow grain assistance only through religious and private organizations and individuals.

Prior to this, the Ministry of National Unification revealed that it will study the request if the Korean National Red Cross asks for its permission to send grain relief to North Korea.

In conformity with the government's policy that it will not allow civilian-level grain assistance to North Korea, the Korean National Red Cross has excluded provisions that are classified as strategic food, such as rice and flour, and has only provided ready-to-eat noodles and edible oil.

ROK: NKP Accepts Inevitability of Offering Rice Aid to DPRK

SK0306101896 Seoul MUNHWA ILBO in Korean 3 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Kim Chae-mok]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 3 June that the New Korea Party [NKP] accepted the inevitability of revising the ROK Government's existing position on food aid to North Korea, realizing it cannot totally ignore the wishes of the United Nations, the United States, Japan, and other members of the international community as regards providing humanitarian aid to North Korea.

In its meeting of high-ranking position holders on 3 June, following a similar meeting on 1 June, the NKP reportedly focused on rice aid to North Korea, agreeing the ROK may lose the policy initiative toward North Korea and attract diatribes from the world community if the ROK stands pat on its existing preconditions for aid — an official request from the North Korean Government, dialogue within the Korean peninsula, and a suspension of tirades against the ROK.

Thus, the NKP has decided to take the initiative in inducing the government turn around its policy.

To this end, the NKP plans to tap public opinion through a seminar scheduled for 7 June, a type of public hearing entitled "Rice Aid and Policy Toward North Korea" to be attended by specialists from various domains.

As regards this, Son Hak-kyu, first director of policy coordination of the NKP, said to reporters: "In practical terms, it is tricky for the government to stick to its existing stance, ignoring the international mainstream that wants to help North Korea." He added: "Since it politically burdens the ruling party to refuse to offer rice aid, the party needs to take the initiative in informing the public of the inevitability of offering aid rice and to make a last-minute about face."

ROK: 'Internal Vigilance' Urged Following DPRK Provocations

SK2405123596 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 24 May 96 p 3

[Editorial: "Defection of MiG-Fighter and Maritime Provocations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Captain Yi Chol-su from the Onchon Flight Regiment of the North Korean Air Force in South Pyongan Province has defected with his MiG-19 jet fighter to South Korea. Since 1950, eight North Korean pilots have defected to the South on seven occasions by flying North Korean Air Force planes to the South. However, this is the first time this has happened since Captain Yi Ung-pyong of the North Korean Air Force defected to the South with his MiG-fighter in February 1983.

In response to the question of his motives for defection, Captain Yi Chol-su stated that he could no longer live under the North Korean system. Thus, he defected to South Korea even at the risk of his life to seek freedom by abandoning his aged father, wife and children.

Five hours before Captain Yi's defection, five North Korean high- speed patrol boats crossed our maritime Northern Limit Line [NLL] in the vicinity of Sochongdo in the West Sea [the Yellow Sea], and intruded as much as five kilometers into our territorial waters. This incident has increased military tension. Because of North Korea's maritime provocations on two occasions during one month, the sea routes of five islands in the West Sea, including Paengnyong Island, have been temporarily closed, thus causing immeasurable inconveniences to the residents.

Although no maritime NLL is specified in the Armistice Agreement, North Korea has tacityly observed it in the past. Thus, this incident is clearly an intentional provocation perpetrated as part of its maneuvers recently carried out in the Joint Security Area and in the DMZ at Panmunjom in an attempt to neutralize the Armistice Agreement. We should strongly punish such acts, if repeated in the future, pursuant to pertinent regulations concerning hostile engagement specified in the Armistice Agreement, and should strive to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

It is now high time for us to heighten internal vigilance against any weak points in defense and security. At the same time, we should again review the justness of the symposiums and political events held at Panmungak concerning the so-called "Wind From the North," which may weaken the people's unity and sense of security. Following the defection of a MiG to the South, North Korea's provocations will become more fierce. We should keenly see to it that such a serious failure in the Seoul alarm system as that which occurred during the MiG's defection is not repeated.

ROK President Meets Military Leaders Over DPRK 'Provocations'

SK2505050996 Seoul YONHAP in English 0501 GMT 25 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 25 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam discussed ways to cope with the latest North Korean military provocations with high-level military officers at a Chongwadae [presidential offices] luncheon Saturday.

The meeting was called to discuss issues related to the defection of a North Korean pilot and the intrusion by North Korean patrol boats into South Korean waters Thursday.

Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Kim Tong-chin, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Yun Yong-nam, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. An Pyong-tae and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Yi Kwang-hak attended the meeting.

Kim instructed the military leaders to keep up their vigilance against any military provocations from the North, Chongwadae sources said.

The chief executive gave high marks for the Air Force's quick response in intercepting and guiding the North Korean defector's MiG-19 fighter to a safe landing, citing its thorough peacetime training and perfect readiness to defend the country's airspace.

Regarding the failure of Seoul's air-raid warning siren as the MiG-19 flew into South Korean airspace, Kim also ordered an overall inspection of Civil Defense warning systems across the country so that a similar error may not recur.

ROK: U.S. Objection to Defector's Testimony Analyzed

SK0106064896 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 30 May 96 p 3

[Article by Kil Chong-u in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is very unusual for the U.S. Defense Department to promptly refute the assertion of Captain Yi Chol-su, who defected to the ROK aboard a MiG aircraft, that North Korea has completed preparations for southward aggression.

The United States usually accepts the assertions and testimonies of North Korean defectors.

U.S. Defense Department spokesman Kenneth Bacon stated: "Our intelligence is different from what Capt. Yi has said." We have to analyze the spokesman's remarks in two ways: the U.S. policy and U.S. intelligence on North Korea.

In short, in his briefing spokesman Bacon said North Korea is incapable of any imminent southward aggression nor does it appear to be planning on one. He explained that the assessment was based on the observations of North Korean military moves during the past six to 12 months.

The U.S. Defense Department was very confident in saying so. This can be interpreted as the Defense Department's confidence in its intelligence capabilities.

What spokesman Bacon tried to convey was that the United States is closely watching every North Korean military move, and is capable of assessing them.

However, the ROK should remember the U.S. policy toward North Korea before examining spokesman Bacon's remarks.

The U.S. Government has maintained a consistent position concerning the recent series of North Korea's provocations, including the North Korean armed soldiers' intrusion into the DMZ and the North Korean patrol boats' crossing of the West Sea demarcation line.

U.S. officials explained: "North Korea's food and economic situation is worsening dramatically. At such a time, we must prevent the North Korean leadership from making a reckless choice."

In line with this, U.S. Ambassador to Korea James Laney, speaking at the Asia Society on 11 May, said: "The United States does not intend to crush or disintegrate North Korea. The United States wants stability and peace on the Korean peninsula."

The United States considers the four-party talks proposed by the ROK and U.S. Presidents in April as a shortcut to detente on the Korean peninsula.

The United States is very keen about creating an atmosphere for North Korea to accept the four-party talks. The United States is more enthusiastic than the ROK in providing additional food aid and easing economic sanctions. Thus, the United States does not welcome Capt. Yi's assertion. The U.S. policy on the Korean peninsula would be hindered if Capt. Yi's testimony gives rise to tensions on the Korean peninsula and cools down the atmosphere for the four-party talks.

ROK Article Views Conflicts Within KPA Organization

SK2905083096 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 27 May 96 p 2

[By reporter Kim Min-sok]

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the motives of the defection to the ROK of former North Korean Air Force pilot Captain Yi Chol-su, 30, has been known to be a discord with the political officer in his unit. This draws our attention to the dual organizational channels in the North Korean Army. Discord between political officers and combat officers is caused by the North Korean Army's attribute of giving superiority to political officers over combat officers.

According to the North Korean Constitution and the regulations of the Workers Party, the North Korean Army is clearly defined as "the party's army." Accordingly, in the North Korean Army, separately from its normal military command channel, political officers sent from the party are dispatched to the lowest-echelon units.

In other words, along with the military command system which links the chairman of the National Defense Committee; the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces; the chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; and the three services of the Army, Navy, and Air Force of the KPA, there exists another channel which links the general secretary of the Workers Party, the party Central Committee, the KPA party committee, the General Political Bureau of the KPA, and the political organizations of the three services of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Thus, there are two command channels in the North Korean Army.

Such dual organizations have continued to exist in the North Korean Army since its founding. However, in an effort to strengthen the political officers' authority, in 1969 North Korea took the step of upgrading the political officers' ranks to the level equivalent to military commanders' ranks and of allowing military commanders' orders to be effectuated only when they are signed jointly by political committee members and political guiding members in the KPA units. Such a step was aimed at strengthening the party's influence toward the military in a bid to implant Kim Il-song's chuche idea in Army units.

According to reports, the voices of complaint about such a step are growing among military commanders, and a lot of confusion has been created in the military command and order channels.

O Kuk-yol, who was the chief of the General Staff of the KPA in the eighties, attempted to reform the North Korean Army. His efforts to reform the Army at that time were aimed at removing the confusions in the military command channel caused by political officers and at blocking the political officers' tyranny in the military establishment. However, O Kuk-yok was kicked out by the political officers' counterattack and demoted to the position of director of the Civil Defense Department of the Workers Party in 1988.

It has been reported recently that with the increase in the case where North Korean military units frequently secure their supplies through their own efforts in the wake of its economic difficulties, the political officers' surveillance of military commanders has intensified even further.

ROK Editorial Analyzes How To Deal With DPRK Defectors

SK0106033196 (Internet) The Digital Chosun Ilbo WWW in English 1215 GMT 31 May 96

[Editorial: "How To Deal With the Defection From North"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Defection has taken place in every nation, so it is not really news in and of itself, but the recent series of North Korean defections has made front-page headlines in Northeast Asia. The reason is simple. The defectors escaped from a supposed "paradise on earth where nothing is needed." Not coal mine workers, but the elite have discarded their families to defect to the South, escaping Pyongyang's surveillance system. Another reason that it has become newsworthy is that these defections may be seen as evidence of some chaos in North Korea.

We are not going to suppose that this recent phenomena is directly related to theories of North Korea's early collapse, but it is unusual that recently, there have been a continuous flow of defectors. Up until sometime ago, leftists or quasi-intellectuals condemned anyone who attempted to make these defections newsworthy as conservative ultra-rightists, but now they, too, are not opposed to thinking that there is something wrong in the North. If those who pursue the value of historical progress, liberal thinking, social justice, welfare, anti-corruption, and human rights...claim that these are pursued only in the South and are quiet toward the North, this is not genuine brotherly love nor a reflection of true liberal spirit. It is, at best, only political.

The problem we face is how to react to or counter the frequent defections from the North given our current capacities. What is awkward is to hear the strange advice "don't antagonize the North, don't try to adversely effect improvement in North-South relations." We have no responsibility in causing the defections. Have we been managing the escape operations? Our only involvement, if any, is to guide the defectors after their escape, which is common human nature.

What we need to do is develop comprehensive measures for defectors so they will not feel or experience another illusion or regret after their escape. If we fail here, it is a great setback for the exercise of living together until reunification. We should remember that such a situation will carry with it dangers which will make reunification a disaster.

ROK: DPRK Scriptwriter on Defection, National Unification

SK3105114196 Seoul YONHAP in English 1123 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 31 (YONHAP) — "This is the moment I have been waiting for so long," said a North Korean defector, Chang Hae-song, as a Korean Airlines plane carrying him was approaching Seoul Friday afternoon.

Chang, formerly a drama scriptwriter of the North Korean Central Broadcasting, said he thinks the time has finally come for him to say and write freely what he likes to.

He said he personally believes unification would come in three years at the longest. "I myself would like to live in Seoul in a way that contributes, meagerly though, toward advancing the time of unification," Chang said.

In an impromptu interview aboard the plane with a KBS reporter, Chang said most of the North Korean people know that Kim Chong-il is not the type to lead the country. "They simply cannot utter this in fear of severe reprisal," he said.

Chang recalled that the most difficulty he encountered during the four months of wandering was the pursuit of him by North Korean security agents.

"Besides what hurts me most is the fact that I left behind in the North my mother, wife and four children," he said with tears in his eyes.

It was learned that Chang escaped North Korea through the frozen Tumen River last January and wandered about Tianjin, Beijing and some other Chinese areas for about four months before he succeeded in smuggling himself into Hong Kong last May 14, where he applied for asylum in South Korea.

ROK Article on Awkward Positions of Japan, PRC After Defections

SK3105144696 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 31 May 96 p 5

[Article by correspondents Song Tae-yong and Sin Yun-sok in Beijing and Tokyo respectively titled: "Ripple Effect on Countries Involved Following Defections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The defection of a scientist and a writer from North Korea through Beijing is causing a delicate ripple in North Korean-Japanese, North Korean-Chinese, and Japanese-Chinese relations.

In the wake of the report on Mr. Chong Kap-yol's request for political asylum in the ROK, the Japanese

Government made obfuscatory statements, such as, "We think we have heard such a report indirectly," and "We have no details on it." Then on 30 May, Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda officially admitted that Mr. Chong had gone to the Japanese Embassy and requested political asylum. In so doing, Foreign Minister Ikeda stressed that Mr. Chong "requested political asylum in the ROK from the beginning."

The Japanese Government tried to avoid referring to this incident as much as possible and stated that Mr. Chong requested political asylum in the ROK from the beginning because the Japanese Government must have thought that the incident would further cool its relations with North Korea coupled with North Korea's recent postponement of its delegation's visit to Japan.

If Japan rejected Mr. Chong's request for political asylum according to its policy of not accepting such a request at its foreign diplomatic missions abroad and instead referred Mr. Chong's custody to the ROK side, it would no doubt offend North Korea, and Japan would be in an awkward position toward North Korea.

On the other hand, Japan had to be prudent in its remarks in consideration of the position of the Chinese Government, which is supposed to disallow a request for political asylum in China.

Despite this consideration of the Japanese Government for formalities, North Korea will no doubt be offended, and the Japanese Government must feel awkward. The Japanese Government must feel all the more burdened by this incident because it came not long after the North Korean diplomat's defection to the ROK through the Japanese Embassy in Zambia in January.

Moreover, the incident is very likely to turn out to be a diplomatic burden for the Japanese Government in connection with the issue of "Japan-resident Koreans shipped to the North." In North Korea there are a considerable number of former Japan-resident Koreans associated with the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan [Chongnyon] who went to North Korea by the North Korean ship sailing from Japan in the late 1950's; and more defectors like Mr. Chong may come from among them. The Japanese Government must make an agonizing decision whether to refer all the defectors to the ROK Government or to accept them into Japan, for Japan is responsible for allowing them to be shipped to the North.

The defection also led China into a subtle position. China is intensifying its efforts for friendship and cooperation with North Korea as witnessed by its recent provision of 20,000 tonnes of food aid to North Korea. Moreover, China has signed an extradition agreement with North Korea, and North Korea has requested that China regard asylum seekers as criminals. Although China has acceded to this North Korean request to a certain degree, if China extradites all the asylum seekers to North Korea, it cannot avoid criticism from a humanitarian point of view.

Therefore, China has maintained the position that asylum seekers from North Korea ought to be handled in a third country, and the same policy was applied to the recent defection case. China and North Korea may not fall into any significant conflict over this defection case, however, and instead North Korea may simply lodge a complaint in an attempt to prevent a recurrence.

ROK: Antiair Brigade 'Came Close To Firing' Missiles at MiG-19

SK0106030196 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 1 Jun 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An Army antiair brigade came close to firing surface-to-air missiles at the North Korean MiG-19 jet fighter which a defecting pilot flew last Thursday across the border.

But the missiles were not actually fired since the Tactical Air Control Center (TACC) in Osan air base notified soldiers of the antiair unit that the MiG was defecting.

"If the TACC notification had come one minute later, the missiles would have been fired and would have struck the Communist jet," an Army spokesman said.

The 1st Army antiair brigade, located south of Seoul, was informed that an enemy fighter was crossing the border in the West Sea at 10:47 A.M., when it went into combat readiness.

The soldiers of the brigade were ready to fire surface-to-air missiles at the intruding MiGs, while-tracking it on a radar screen.

They prepared to fire missiles as the MiG approached a target point.

At the moment the soldiers were ready to fire missiles, Air Force interceptors rushed to the area and confirmed that pilot Capt. Yi Chol-su, who dipped his wings and lowered his landing gear, wanted to defect.

The Army antiair unit halted the missile-firing at 10:55 A.M., when the TACC notified them that Yi, 30, was defecting.

Six South Korean jet fighters, including two F-16s, escorted the MiG to land at Suwon sir base at 11:09 A.M.

A Defense Ministry official said that "it showed that both the Air Force and the Army maintained a tight antiair defense."

ROK: Role China, Japan Played in Defections Discussed

SK0106044396 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 1 Jun 96 p 2

[Report by staff reporter Son Ke-yong]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two North Koreans' successful journeys to Seoul, as well as several other defections that preceded theirs raised questions about what roles China and Japan played amid the fiery intelligence war in Northeast Asia.

The Seoul government has so far refused to reveal the exact route of their defections and only said that a scientist and a playwright from North Korea sought asylum at a South Korean mission located in a third country in Southeast Asia.

Although the whole picture is still murky, the two North Koreans Chong Kap-yol, a 44-year-old scientist, and Chang Hae-song, a 52- year-old scriptwriter, managed to reach Hong Kong via China in a life-or-death escape from North Korean authorities.

Chinese authorities are suspected of cooperating with South Korean officials, or at least overlooking the defection, as both North Koreans passed through China before arriving in Hong Kong.

Japan was also involved in this sensitive case because the scientist first visited the Japanese Embassy in Beijing to express his will to defect to South Korea.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda mentioned some kind of contact with South Korean authorities after the scientist entered its embassy in Beijing to seek asylum.

If confirmed that the two countries were directly involved in the incident, their relations with North Korea are likely to be strained. Japan in particular had sought to resume diplomatic normalization talks with North Korea.

The defection stories began in China, where the scientist was on his way back home from Geneva where he took part in the 24th International Exhibition of Inventions, New Technologies and Products, held April 19-28.

He was apparently worried about the rebuke he could have been subject to upon returning to North Korea because he only received a silver medal in the international competition to which North Korea has annually sent a delegation.

The scientist also appears convinced that the current North Korean system had failed to provide him with an adequate environment for his research and development activities.

On April 7, he decided to seek asylum in South Korea and left the North Korean Embassy in Beijing, where he was waiting for his return flight to Pyongyang.

He told embassy staffers that he was going to a nearby eyeglass shop to change his glasses.

Instead of visiting the shop, he headed toward the South Korean Embassy in Beijing, but it was already closed as business hours had ended. He then went to the Japanese Embassy in the vicinity of the North Korean Embassy and expressed his will to defect to South Korea. He had no problems speaking with Japanese officials because he was born in Japan.

Concerned that the embassy's involvement in the defection case would damage its relations with Pyongyang, embassy officials allegedly introduced him to a South Korean person.

With the South Korean's aid Chong managed to travel via Shanghai to Hong Kong, where he sought asylum at the South Korean Consulate General.

Meanwhile, playwright Chang made up his mind Jan. 21 to desert North Korea upon facing arrest for speaking ill of de facto North Korean leader Kim Chong-il.

He headed for the northeastern city of Sonbong and took a train to cross the Tuman River before sneaking into China. He jumped from a bridge on the river and fractured one of his ribs.

After wandering across China, he managed to reach Hong Kong May 14 and sought asylum at the South Korean Consulate General.

"Hong Kong authorities played a significant role in allowing them to apply for asylum in South Korea although the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was involved in the process to-determine their free will," a Foreign Ministry official said.

The two defectors were transferred from Hong Kong authorities to South Korea's intelligence officials Thursday night and arrived at Kimpo Airport at 1:07 P.M. yesterday.

ROK Editorial Discusses DPRK Defectors Cases

SK0106071596 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 31 May 96 p 3

[Editorial: "Defection of North Korean Intellectuals"]

[FBIS Translated Text] News that a North Korean scientist and a radio drama writer recently sought political asylum from the ROK makes us have mixed feelings of delight and concern. The defection of intellectuals who belong to North Korea's high-ranking class is another sign of the collapse of its elite class. However, under the tense situation in which dialogue between the North and South has been cut off, it is possible that a series of defections by members of North Korea's elite class may provoke North Korea's current leadership and bring about unexpected side effects.

We are concerned about such a possibility since the recent case was followed by the defection of diplomats, an overseas intelligence agent, and an Air Force pilot. We are all the more weighed down by the defection of Kim Chong-il's former wife from the North Korean system. However, what matters the most right now is to be able to safely take the North Korean asylum seekers to wherever they hope to go. This calls for the government's wise handling of the case.

After checking with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to confirm their intentions, the government did its utmost to safely bring them over. It is natural that the government should react in this way. The government ought to do its best to accomplish their defection safely on the basis of internationally-accepted norms and practices.

However, it is truly regrettable that the Japanese Embassy in Beijing turned down the North Korean scientist's request for asylum. Chong Kap-yol, director for acoustic research at North Korea's state science institute, on 7 May escaped the North Korean Embassy in Beijing, saying that he needs to repair his glasses and then went directly to the Japanese Embassy in Beijing to apply for political asylum. The Japanese Embassy, however, refused to accept his request under the pretext of its government's policy of not accepting political asylum seekers. We appreciate Japan's position which seeks negotiations with North Korea for the resumption of talks for bilateral diplomatic relations. However, Japan would not be able to avoid denunciation that it was extremely irresponsible in handling this issue as a reliable member of the international community.

We also think that a Japanese news agency's report on Chong's defection even before the case was completely settled was imprudent. What is most important in the case of political defection is the safety of defectors. However, the Japanese media ignored such a basic principle. As we have seen from Japan's NHK television report, North Korea is a country which shoots defectors immediately after they are handed over to its side. Japan's attitude should surely be changed in the event a similar case occurs.

ROK: Defectors' Testimony Exposes Crises in DPRK Society

SK0106081496 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 1 Jun 96 p 8

[Article by correspondent Yu Sang-chol from Hong Kong: "North Korean Society Exposed by Two Defectors"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that because of economic difficulties, many plants in North Korea are not operating and citizens are not being paid properly.

A one hundred U.S. dollar bill circulates at a value of 200 won in "foreign exchange coupons" and approximately 10,870 won in ordinary North Korean money.

CHUNGANG ILBO has exclusively obtained the content of testimony given to Hong Kong authorities by Chang Hae-song (51) and Chong Kap- yol (45), who defected to South Korea on 31 May via Hong Kong. The following are some aspects of North Korean society exposed by them.

The Economy

The monthly salary of an ordinary citizen is 80 to 100 won. Miss Chang Song-suk (25), eldest daughter of Chang Hae-song, works at the Illyong Workshop (plant where empty cartridges are cut for missiles and guns) located near the Pyongyang Mining Machine Plant. However, since her workshop is closed so often due to a shortage of work, she gets only two to 10 won a month.

On the other hand, the monthly salary of Chang Hae-song, who was a script writer in the broadcasting station, was 145 won. Since Chang Hae-song was a secondary-class writer, he got an additional payment of 300 won for each piece of radio drama he wrote each month. This is a much higher level of payment than that of ordinary citizens.

Chong Kap-yol, director of the Meari Acoustic Equipment Corporation, is paid 195 won a month.

Energy and food shortages are beyond the people's imagination.

All of 30 scriptwriters in the broadcasting station, except four who were essential staff who stayed in the office, worked in their homes last winter due to coal shortages. Citizens who run out of food eat rice straw after boiling or chemically processing it.

Furthermore, the number of people eating tree bark is increasing, and as a result forests have been damaged. Women even sell themselves for food.

Foreign money is always popular, because one can buy anything from the store with this money. In particular, dollars are used to give bribes.

Mrs. Hong Chong-mi, wife of Chong Hae-song, offered a $700 bribe to a renowned art school in Pyongyang to get her daughter (7) enrolled in the school.

One dollar can buy two kilograms of rice in the black markets.

Kim Chong-il

There has been no official announcement up to now concerning Kim Chong-il's succession to power. However, reporters and writers of the Central Broadcasting Committee working in the propaganda field believe that Kim Chong-il will rise to the presidency in 1997 when the "three-year mourning period for Kim Il-song's death" ends.

On New Year's day in 1993, Kim Chong-il called for vice chairman of the Central Broadcasting Committee Kim Kwang-ho and forced him to drink three glasses of cognac, despite his empty stomach. Having accepted Kim Chong-il's offer of drinks, Vice Chairman Kim Kwang-ho lost consciousness and collapsed at last. Kim Chong-il ordered that Kim Kwang-ho be taken home, and Kim Kwang-ho had scratches all over his face and body. Also, a great fuss about hunting a tiger was made in 1992 when Kim Il-song commemorated his 80th birthday.

About 20 expert hunters were mobilized in an attempt to find a tiger for Kim Il-song to hunt, and searched all over Mt. Paektu but failed.

North-South Relations

Fifty to sixty percent of all North Korean people are not interested in anything but the impending issue of how to eke out a living. If a war breaks out, there will be more North Korean soldiers who aim at the exploiting class in North Korea, reaching approximately 10 percent of all citizens, including those in the Public Security Bureau, than those who aim at the South Korean Army. North Korean society is corrupt to the core, and there is a great possibility that a riot may easily be touched off even by a minor external shock.

The generals respected by North Korean soldiers are General Choe Kwang, who was promoted to Marshal in October last year, and General Chang Song-u, who is the elder brother of Chang Song-taek (Kim Chong-il's brother-in-law).

Other Issues

Literary works by South Korean writers Hwang Sok-yong and Kim Song-chong are popular among North Korean writers. Chang Hae-song read three volumes of Hwang Sok-yong's novel "Chang Kil-san."

The North Korean people do not know about the defection of Song Hye-rim, Kim Chong-il's former wife, to South Korea, which caused a sensation early this year.

Food aid by foreign relief organizations to North Korea has been reported by television from time to time. However, the reports have focused on South Korea's obstruction of foreign food aid to North Korea.

ROK: Defecting DPRK Writer on Escape, Food Situation, Military

SK0106150196 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 1 Jun 96 p 6

[Report on interview "mostly carried out in writing" with North Korean defector writer Chang Hae-song by reporter Kim Song-yong in an airplane flying to Seoul on 31 May]

[FBIS Summary] Looking down at the city of Seoul through the window of an airplane which had departed from Hong Kong, Chang Hae- song, 52, a North Korean radio drama scriptwriter, who escaped from North Korea four months ago, said: "'I have waited for this moment for a long time. I am really happy because now I can speak what I want to speak and write what I want to write. But I am so sorry to think of my wife, mother, first daughter who married last year, and my darling one-year child.'" His first wife died in 1994, and he remarried in 1995.

Chang also said: "'While wandering around the northeast area of China right after I escaped from North Korea, I keenly realized how pitiful a stateless person is.'" On 21 January, he jumped out of a running train which was passing through Kangyang Station of North Korea and ran away to Tomen, China. Since then, he had been chased by North Korean agents of the State Security Department until he arrived in Hong Kong on 15 May. Recalling his days as a runaway, he said: "'Korean ministers and businessmen helped me greatly in various places in China. Without them, I would have been arrested and deported to North Korea by the Chinese security police.'" However, he did not explain the course of his escape in detail "because he was concerned about the possibility that North Korea's secret agency may retaliate against those who helped him and that those who plan to escape from North Korea might lose 'stepping- stones' to the ROK."

Chang, who decided to defect to the South upon facing arrest for criticizing the idolization of Kim Chong-il, said: "The Kim Chong-il system is firm in appearance." Yet, he said: "'Everyone but an idiot knows that the Kim Chong-il reign is wrong. However, to protect their families, people do not discuss it. Few people know the story about his birth and youth; those who know it do not reveal it, either, because it is unforgivable to speak ill of Kim Chong- il.'"

Asserting that the collapse of North Korea will come soon, Chang said: "'The upper and lower classes move separately in North Korea these days. People do not care what the superior authorities tell them. The government prohibited grain sales last year in a bid to solve food problems, but there was open buying and selling of food at work sites after just a few days. The North Korean military is cheering in perfect unity, but actually, commanding officers and soldiers act separately. It is no accident that Air Force Captain Yi Chol-su recently defected to South Korea with a MiG-19 fighter. In my opinion, it will be difficult for North Korea to survive another three years.'"

Chang wrote about 150 radio drama scripts in North Korea and wants to continue to work as a drama scriptwriter here in Seoul. He expressed his wish to make even a small contribution to reunifying the country by writing, saying reunification will be the only way for him to see his family again.

The conversation with Chang was mostly carried out in writing because the government official in charge of escorting him did not allow verbal conversation.

ROK: Kim Chong-il's 'Keen Interest' in Foreign Capital Noted

SK2205024796 Seoul YONHAP in English
0218 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, May 22 (YONHAP) — North Korea's de facto leader Kim Chong-il has keen interest in using foreign capital to push for economic development projects, China's Communist Party organ, the PEOPLE'S DAILY, reported Monday.

Quoting a senior official from North Korea's External Economic Affairs Commission, the daily said the North Korean Government and Workers' Party are attaching great importance to developing the national economy with foreign capital.

The report was based on an interview Pak Un-chol, who is responsible for joint ventures and contractual businesses, gave to the paper's correspondent in Pyongyang.

Pak said that North Korea "is seeking to develop foreigner- invested businesses and have their products advance to international markets for the interests of the national economy and in compliance with demands from international markets."

He said that as of May, there are 130 joint ventures and joint contractual businesses, including 70 with Chochongnyon, the pro- Pyongyang Korean residents in Japan, and 40 with Chinese partners. The rest are with other nations including South Korea, he said.

Recent North Korean statistics indicate that 130 million dollars in foreign capital has been invested in joint ventures in the communist country.

ROK Ministry Welcomes KEDO Protocol on Privileges, Immunities

SK2305063896 Seoul YONHAP in English
0617 GMT 23 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 23 (YONHAP) — The Foreign Ministry welcomed the initialing Thursday by North Korea and Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) of a protocol for consular protection and privileges for KEDO personnel sent to North Korea to build two light-water nuclear reactors.

"The initialing of the protocol paved the way for KEDO to proceed with the North Korean nuclear reactor project," according to a statement.

The statement also said that the protocol guaranteed the rights and legal basis necessary for KEDO personnel to work effectively in North Korea.

It also used the occasion to again urge the North to faithfully respect international safeguards for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and fully implement obligations according to the joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

ROK: KEDO, DPRK Initial Protocol on Privileges, Immunities

SK2205133496 Seoul YONHAP in English
1329 GMT 22 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, May 22 (YONHAP) — Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) and North Korea initialed a protocol on diplomatic privileges and immunities and consular protection here Wednesday, KEDO announced.

The protocol was the first of some 10 documents to be prepared in support of the KEDO-North Korea light-water reactor supply contract, the announcement said.

KEDO and North Korean officials started here early April negotiating about legal status, diplomatic privileges and immunities and consular protection of KEDO officials and engineers of Korea Electric Power Corp., as prime contractor of the reactor project, during their stay in North Korea.

ROK Ministry: North Hints at Stand on Talks Explanatory Meeting

SK2605004896 (Internet) The Joong-Ang Ilbo WWW in English 26 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Unification Ministry announced Saturday that North Korea has hinted at its negative position toward an explanatory meeting on the Seoul-Washington proposed 4-way talks. An official of the Unification Ministry said that "North Korea has shown no indication that it will attend the South Korea-US joint explanatory meeting. This assessment was made through an analysis of an editorial published in the May 24th issue of the NODONG Daily, which said 'We have no reason to listen to South Choson (North Korea's term for South Korea) as it has no authority to speak on any issues."

ROK Government To Review Overall Policies on DPRK 4 Jun

SK0306025496 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 3 Jun 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The government is planning to hold a unification-related ministers conference chaired by Unification Deputy Prime Minister Kwon O-ki at the government office building in Kwanghwamun on 4 June. They will review overall North Korean policies, including plans to realize the four-way talks, the present status of the light-water reactor provision project for North Korea, the issue of rice aid to North Korea, and the like.

It has been learned that they will also discuss the plan of unifying civilian-level channels supporting grain, including rice, to North Korea, through the ROK Red Cross channel so that the support work is carried out in an orderly manner to help improve North-South relations.

ROK Daily Profiles DPRK Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-kwan

SK0306052596 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 3 Jun 96 p 13

[Article by Min Pyong-yong, researcher at the Unification Research Institute, from the "Figures Controlling North Korea" column: "DPRK Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-kwan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] DPRK Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-kwan (58) is a career diplomat who has been in charge of working-level affairs concerning DPRK-U.S. relations and nuclear problem. When U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson (Democrat) visited Pyongyang last week, Kim Kye-kwan, representing the North Korean side, exchanged views with him on the exhumation of the remains of U.S. soldiers, the four-way talks, and the like. When the [North Korea's] nuclear problem caused much controversy on the Korean peninsula, Kim Kye- kwan attended important talks with the United States all the time. Thus, Kim is familiar to our side.

In October 1994, he attended DPRK-U.S. nuclear talks in Geneva as the deputy head of the North Korean delegation. In May 1995, as a senior North Korean delegate, Kim reached an agreement with Thomas Hubbard, U.S. assistant secretary of state, at the upper-level talks held in Kuala Lumpur. With refined manners as a diplomat, he speaks excellent English and French. He is quick to grasp the contents of pending issues during negotiations and always smiles.

Born in South Hamgyong Province in 1938, Kim Kye-kwan began his diplomatic service as a part-time adviser at the DPRK Embassy in Algeria. In 1975, he was promoted a section chief of the Foreign Ministry; and in the same year, he was posted to the DPRK mission to the United Nations as a first secretary. In 1984, he was named ambassador to Niger and accompanied Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam in his visit to Ethiopia. Following this, he visited Germany, Hungary, and the like in his capacity as DPRK ambassador-at-large.

When North and South Korea entered the United Nations simultaneously in September 1991, Kim attended the UN General Assembly along with North Korean representative Kang Sok-chu. He also accompanied Kim Yong-sun [secretary of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee] in his visit to the United States, thus displaying his status as an expert on U.S. affairs. He welcomed former U.S. President Carter when the latter visited North Korea via Panmunjom in 1994. With his professional knowledge of the Western world, especially U.S. affairs, Kim is likely to frequently show up at DPRK-U.S. talks in the future.

ROK: Cohosting World Cup May Have Positive Impact on S-N Ties

SK0106041596 Seoul YONHAP in English 0355 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, June 1 (YONHAP) — Co-hosting the 2002 World Cup finals may provide South Korea with the momentum needed to thaw currently icy inter-Korean relations, observers here said Saturday.

"The World Cup spirit embodying world peace through soccer is bound to have a positive effect on inter-Korean relations one way or another," an observer said.

He noted that among the factors behind South Korea's success in winning the right to co-host was the catch phrase of "promotion of South-North reconciliation through split staging of World Cup finals in the two Koreas."

Although the co-host decision has diminished chances for staging World Cup finals in South and North Korea, South Korea's co-host status will nevertheless have a positive influence on various pending inter-Korean issues, the observers said.

One major plus, an analyst said, will be to broaden the government's policy horizon when dealing with North Korea.

"For instance, a public consensus could be forged for improved inter-Korean relations in the interest of being a successful World Cup host, a development which would make it easier for the government to promote the further provision of grain for needy North Koreans," he said.

The observers predicted that if and when food assistance is actually sent, it could possibly lead a hesitant North Korea to accept the four-way meeting proposal and resume the suspended South- North Korean dialogue.

Once dialogue resumes between the two Koreas the possiblity of a summit meeting becomes more real. The two sides agreed to a summit in mid-1994, but it was canceled during final preparations due to the sudden death of Kim Il-song.

One analyst said that although being a co-host with Japan technically makes it less likely that North Korea can stage some of the matches, Pyongyang's participation cannot be ruled out altogether.

He explained that Japan, eager to normalize diplomatic ties with North Korea, may agree to ceding some finals to Pyongyang as a goodwill gesture.

Another observer, however, was more pessimistic about Pyongyang's chances. His opinion was that, even if Japan and South Korea offer some matches to North Korea they would hardly jump at the opportunity.

"Pyongyang must be aware that if it agrees to share, it would add to public's desire to become more open which would be a substantial political burden for the regime," he said.

Even if North Korea's participation becomes impossible, co- hosting the World Cup will provide important momentum for invigorating sports talks or exchanges between the two Koreas, they said.

There is the strong possibility that the two Koreas could discuss fielding a single inter-Korean team for the World Cup finals as they have tried — unsuccessfully — to do for past Olympic and World Cup events.

On the other hand, one observer cautioned that the country needs to guard against possible North Korean schemes to prevent South Korea from successfully hosting the World Cup finals.

He recalled that in late 1987 when South Korea was preparing for the 1998 Olympics, Pyongyang terrorists bombed a Korean Air jet liner while it was flying over the sea off Burma.

"The danger is that North Korea, when faced with a serious internal crisis, might attempt to sabotage the South's World Cup efforts to squeeze more concessions from the West," he said.

ROK: FIFA Cohosting Decision Boosts Stock Market

SK0106015296 Seoul YONHAP in English 0147 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, June 1 (YONHAP) — The world football governing body's decision to allow Korea and Japan the right to co-host the 2002 World Cup finals buoyed the stock market here Saturday morning.

As soon as the bell rang, bulls dominated the market, sending up the Korea Stock Price Index (KOSPI) by more than 12 points. But the market began losing the momentum and the benchmark index's upward movement slowed to 7.44 points at 9:50.

Nearly all issues made a strong showing, and there was no conspicuous market leader, though such world cup-related issues as Hyundai Corp. and Hotel Shilla made a phenomenal rebound from the retreat over the previous several days.

The FIFA's co-hosting decision was a great news to the market, but it would bring an ephemeral boom to the market because it has few effects on the market's excessive supply, analysts said.

ROK: Kim on Efforts To Make Cohosting Strengthen ROK-Japan Ties

SK0106053296 Seoul YONHAP in English 0524 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, June 1 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam said Saturday the country needs to use its opportunity to co-host the 2002 World Cup with Japan to strengthen the already amicable and cooperative bilateral relations between the two countries.

In a prepared statement President Kim said that the Federation of International Football Association's (FIFA) co-host decision is the source of some regret to "those of us who have worked so hard to win the right to host the World Cup independently."

"We must, however, respect the FIFA decision which considered what is best for the development of world soccer and Korea-Japan relations," the president said.

Stressing that the two countries will have to work together closely in the course of preparing for the World Cup, President Kim said his government will do all that it can to make the 2002 World Cup the most successful one in history.

Kim also expressed his thanks to the people, particularly the members of the bidding committee for the 2002 World Cup in Korea, for the efforts they made to win the right to be the sole host.

ROK: Kim, Hashimoto Talk on Phone, Vow To Cooperate on World Cup

SK0106093096 Seoul YONHAP in English 0900 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, June 1 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam and Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto agreed Saturday that their governments will cooperate closely for a successful cohosting of the 2002 World Cup soccer finals, Presidential Spokesman Yun Yo-chun said.

Kim placed a telephone call on Hashimoto Saturday afternoon to urge that South Korea and Japan to cooperate in the spirit of friendliness and goodwill to make the 2002 World Cup finals the most successful one in the history of soccer, according to Yun.

Kim also said that "the goodwill competition (to win the right to host the 2002 World Cup tournament) between the two countries has its own meaning in consideration of the friendly relations between the two countries."

Hashimoto meanwhile responded that he himself accepted the offer of the Executive Committee of the International Football Federation (FIFA) to jointly host the 2002 World Cup finals with South Korea under the same notion President Kim had.

Hashimoto was also quoted by Yun as pledging that he will make efforts so the 2002 World Cup tournament could be a success through close cooperation between the two governments.

ROK Ministry Probing Alleged Torture by Chinese of Fishermen

SK0106084696 Seoul YONHAP in English 0830 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, June 1 (YONHAP) — The Foreign Ministry Saturday instructed its mission in Beijing to investigate the allegation that Korean fishermen recently caught in waters near China were tortured while being interrogated by Chinese security agents, a ministry official said.

Twenty two fishermen of the trawler Shinjin No. 21, who were returned to Pusan port Thursday after being taken to China early May, insisted that they were beaten by Chinese Maritime Police wielding steel rakes while being apprenhended.

They claimed that they were also hit by Chinese policemen while being interrogated, according to the maritime police who interrogated them upon arriving in Pusan.

The Chinese, however, insist that the South Korean fishermen violated Chinese law by obstructing the official duties of the Chinese authorities and raised disturbances on board, the Foreign Ministry official said.

The official added that his ministry will take appropriate measures including lodging protests through diplomatic channel once the investigation by South Korean Embassy in Beijing into the alleged torture case finds clues to the claims by the fishermen.

ROK: PRC Boat Crewmen Reportedly Board, Attack ROK Fishing Boat

SK0306030696 Seoul YONHAP in English 0157 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mokpo, South Cholla Province, June 3 (YONHAP) — More than 20 Chinese seamen boarded a South Korean fishing boat on the West Sea last Friday and robbed the crew of 1.2 million won (about 1,522 U.S. dollars) in cash after attacking them and damaging ship equipment.

Kim Chin-kon, 48, skipper of 69-ton Changsong-ho, alleged that at about 7:00 PM on May 31, two Chinese fishing boats, one of whose names was 0825 Haijin, approached when his boat was fishing for blue crab some 130 miles southwest of Sohuksan-do Island.

More than 20 crewmen from the 50-ton 0825 Haijin and another Chinese boat boarded the South Korean boat with axes and daggers and after injuring the 11 crew members and damaging electronic equipment and engine room of the Changsong-ho, took their money.

The Chinese boats disappeared heading toward China.

Kim said, "navigation was impossible because the engine room was destroyed. And since the radio was also damaged, we could not contact anyone. We were drifting for 27 hours until Tongsong-ho, another South Korean fishing boat, found us and reported the incident to Tongyong wireless station."

The crew members were hospitalized Sunday morning at Wando Medical Center. Five of the 11 crew were seriously injured.

The Foreign Ministry in Seoul said that if Kim's allegations are found to be true after a thorough investigation, there will be a formal protest to the Chinese Government asking it to investigate.

ROK: MOFA To Investigate Alleged Attack by PRC Fishermen

SK0306032696 Seoul YONHAP in English 0220 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, June 3 (YONHAP) — The Foreign Ministry on Monday instructed its mission in Beijing to carefully investigate the allegation that Chinese fishermen attacked Korean fishermen and robbed them of 1.5 million won last Friday in the Yellow Sea.

"An allegation has it that the Chinese fishermen robbed the South Korean fishermen aboard the crab trawler Changsong No. 55," a ministry official said.

The ministry will lodge a protest and urge the Chinese authorities to punish the Chinese fishermen involved if the claim turns out to be true.

Skipper Kim Chin-kon and his men of the Changsong No. 55 claimed that last weekend two Chinese fishing boats boarded their boat in waters 130 miles southwest of Sohuksando, Sinan County, South Cholla Province, around 7 PM Friday wielding axes and wood sticks that they used to injure and rob Korean fishermen of 1.5 million won.

ROK: MOFA Summons PRC Consul General, Protests 'Piracy' Incident

SK0306051996 Seoul YONHAP in English 0511 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, June 3 (YONHAP) — The Foreign Ministry [MOFA] on Monday summoned the consul-general from the Chinese Embassy here to protest the alleged attack and robbery of South Korean fishermen by Chinese fishermen in the West Sea [Yellow Sea] last Friday. Deputy Director General Yi Won-hyung at the ministry's Asia and Pacific Affairs Bureau called in Consul-General Gao Shanhai, and insisted that the Chinese authorities make a thorough investigation of the alleged piracy, punish the Chinese fishermen involved and pay compensation.

Four of the 11 South Korean fishermen aboard the Changsong No. 55 were hospitalized and seven others suffered minor injuries when the Chinese fishermen attacked the South Korean vessel and absconded with 1.5 million won, according to the ministry.

ROK: Japanese Patrol Boat Stays Near Tokdo 'for Over 3 Months'

SK0206133096 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1100 GMT 2 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At a time when the need for cooperation between the ROK and Japan has been stressed following the decision on co-hosting of the 2002 World Cup by the two countries, it has been learned that a Japanese fishing patrol boat has, by contrast, been carrying out activities around Tokdo Island for a long time.

An official of the National Defense Ministry has said that a 700-tonne Japanese fishing patrol boat, which appeared near Tokdo Island in February when the territorial dispute occurred between the ROK and Japan over ownership of the island, is still carrying out activities in the open seas near Tokdo Island.

In the past, Japanese fishing patrol boats used to return two or three days after approaching the waters near Tokdo Island. However, this time the Japanese vessel has been there for over three months. This has attracted our attention.

ROK: Kim Yong-sam Meets Japanese New Frontier Party Delegation

SK0306115296 Seoul YONHAP in English 0755 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, June 3 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam met with 10 lawmakers from Japan's New Frontier Party Monday afternoon at Chongwadae [presidential offices] to discuss matters of mutual concern including ways to boost bilateral cooperation.

The delegation was led by Kansei Nakano, Policy Deliberation Committee chairman for the Japanese opposition party.

Commenting that co-hosting the 2002 World Cup finals will provide South Korea and Japan with "significant momentum for putting Korea- Japan relations on a future-oriented course," Kim proposed that the two countries, "based on a spirit of good-neighborliness, cooperate with each other to make the world cup finals a success," according to his aide.

Kim stressed the need to increase mutual understanding between the two countries through more active exchange and cooperation "on the basis of a proper understanding of our history."

He expressed his hope for closer cooperation, not only on government level but also between political parties from the two nations.

ROK: TV Describes NSP as 'Industrial Intelligence Agency'

SK0206095096 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Industrial spies are running loose all over the world to collect the most recent technological information. In fact, they are becoming more brazen as time goes by. Keeping step with this worldwide trend, the ROK Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] has begun to teach businesses the ropes of security and provide them with foreign industrial information. By doing so, the NSP is greatly strengthening its function of collecting economic information. Reporter Song Chong-mun will report the details.

[Begin recording] [Song] A seminar on patent and industrial security was held today at the hall of the Korean Federation of Small Businesses. At the end of the seminar aimed at coaching medium and small businesses on how to manage industrial information, a videotape on industrial security was shown. [The video shows two men looking for something in a file and taking pictures of some pages of the file with a mini camera, then shows a man making copies of papers on a xerox machine in a dark room.]

The videotape produced by NSP plainly shows industrial spies' activities not revealed to ordinary people and shows skillful methods to cope with them. [The video shows a person inserting papers in a shredder and a man opening a door using an ID card.] The participants in the seminar were surprised but glad at the fact that the NSP has produced such a tape for businesses.

[Yang Chang-sik, head of Chongbotel Co.; name and title given in captions at bottom of TV screen] I have the impression that the NSP has been reborn as an agency contributing to industrial development.

[Kuk Kwang-tae, assistant chief of the Small and Medium Industry Promotion Corporation; name and title given in captions at bottom of TV screen] I think it is very good that the NSP is trying to do something helpful to increase national competitive strength.

[Song] The NSP has been intensifying its activities for industrial security by establishing an industrial spy report center and checking the security status of each company. In addition, the NSP collects overseas business information, such as details of the Mekong River project, and provides it to domestic enterprises. The new appearance of the NSP is conspicuous everywhere in economic circles, and the newly born NSP can be described as an industrial intelligence agency that catches industrial spies and provides businesses with economic information. [end recording]

ROK, Pakistan Sign Accord on Protection of Military Secrets

SK3105020596 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 31 May 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South Korea and Pakistan yesterday signed an accord on the protection of bilateral military secrets in a ceremony at the Defense Ministry in Seoul.

The accord was signed by Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho and his Pakistani counterpart Aftab Shaban Mirani.

The agreement would help promote, and serve as a precondition to, military exchanges and cooperation in the logistics and the defense industry between the two countries, a ministry spokesman explained.

Minister Mirani came to Seoul Wednesday for a five-day visit to South Korea. He is the first Pakistani defense minister to visit Seoul, the spokesman said.

Mirani is scheduled to visit military units and the truce village of Panmunjom before leaving Seoul Sunday.

ROK: NCNP Vows Cooperation if Poll Irregularities Banned

SK3005112296 Seoul YONHAP in English 0959 GMT 30 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 30 (YONHAP) — Kim Tae-chung, head of the opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP), said Thursday his party would cooperate in inaugurating the new National Assembly only when firm steps are taken to prevent the recurrence of election irregularities.

In a speech at the inauguration of his party's North Chongchong Province chapter, Kim also demanded the cancellation of the "forced admission" of some legislators into the ruling New Korea Party as well as a thorough probe into election violations committed in the recent general elections.

He said that if the ruling camp displays the minimum necessary sincerity toward these issues, his NCNP would cooperate in resolving all pending issues on the floor.

"President Kim Yong-sam should realize that the only way for him to lead a comfortable life after his retirement will be to reflect on election irregularities and lay a ground for fair electioneering in the future," Kim Tae-chung said.

The veteran opposition leader reiterated that a horizontal power change alone would serve to rectify the "crooked political, economic, social, cultural and inter-Korean policies" which he said have characterized the 50 years of authoritarianism.

Asserting that the Kim Yong-sam administration is "experiencing disruption everywhere," Kim said the administration, in view of its ability, seems to be not able to find a way out of the disruptive situation.

ROK: 'Shrinking' Farmland in ROK Causing Concern

SK0306025296 (Internet) The Joong-Ang Ilbo WWW in English 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The dawning of an era of regional autonomy has brought about active regional development and a rapid increase in the land area of urban districts and quasi-agriculture and forestry zones. However, the size of farmlands is shrinking steadily.

In some ways, this is an inevitable trend as more and more land is being cleared away to build houses and factories, but farmlands approximately 60 times the size of Yoido in Seoul(2,871,000 square km) are being diverted to other purposes annually. The rapid shrinking of farmland area is some cause for concern.

Burma

Burma: Democratic Leaders Forum Urges U.S. Embargo on SLORC

BK0106093396 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 30 May 96

[Press Statement of Forum of Democratic Leaders in Asia-Pacific issued on 29 May — place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Forum of Democratic Leaders in the Asia-Pacific (FDL-AP) expresses our deepest concern over the State Law and Order Restoration Council's (SLORC) recent action to detain of 256 National League for Democracy (NLD) members who planned to attend a three-day all-party congress. The May congress was 6th anniversary of the overwhelming victory of NLD in the 1990 general elections.

Although Madam Aung San Suu Kyi has continuously demanded the SLORC to enter into a dialogue with the NLD and implement necessary measures to restore democracy in Burma, there is little sign that the SLORC will stop the current crackdown aimed at the Burmese democratic forces. Therefore, FDL-AP strongly calls for all democratic leaders, civil rights groups, and government leaders to take firm and resolute measure against the SLORC. We also demand the Burma military regime to cease its oppression of democratic forces and fully guarantee the political freedoms of all Burmese citizens including Aung San Suu Kyi.

We fully support Dr. Sein Win, Prime Minister of NCGUB [National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma] who urged, in a previous resolution, the United States to place an economic embargo on Burma which could pressure the SLORC into a dialogue with Burmese democratic forces. We also urge the South Korean government to build a more constructive relationship with Burma in long run through supporting the democratic movement in Burma.

FDL-AP calls for all civil or human rights NGOs [nongovernmental organizations] committed to the promotion of democracy in the Asia-Pacific and Korea to send their support and encouragement to Burmese democratic forces including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

The FDL-AP is also planning to launch a signature campaign to demand the SLORC to release arrested NLD members.

Burma: Article Addresses 'National Reconciliation'

BK2905120096 Rangoon KYEMON in Burmese 26, 27 May 96

[Article in two installments by U Hla Myint: "Why the Demand for Dialogue Was Not Implemented"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [26 May p 4]**1. There are now common political and economic goals among the Myanmar [Burmese] political forces.**

Currently both major and minor political forces, including the existing State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] government, are united in their conviction to establish a multiparty democratic system and market economy.

The majority is united in its conviction that these policies [preceding word published in English] are to be implemented through the programs [preceding word published in English] of national reconciliation and unity [amyotha pyanle thintmyat silon].

We welcome — in principle — the offer to hold dialogue with the current government; however, this has not yet materialized. In an interview on 10 May 1996 regarding this issue, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said: "You and I as politicians desire dialogue. As a military government it may not have the tradition of dialogue; I do not know. Our offer has not yet materialized."

We, who desire national reconciliation and who are advocates of scientific politics, economic research, and increased production, present our thoughts on the aforementioned issue of national reconciliation.

2. Two schools of thought emerging in Myanmar on national reconciliation.

National reconciliation can be defined as the achievement of solidarity and unity [silon nyinyut hmu] among all forces in the country. To work toward such solidarity and unity, it is necessary to objectively review the respective positions of all forces, the extent of their responsibilities, and the times and circumstances in which Myanmar finds itself. This policy is diametrically opposed to the policy of eradication and annihilation [apyoke taik-ye Chehmon- ye Lanzin], which is similar to the unconditional surrender adopted by the Allies against the Fascists during the Second World War. The two policies are different, however, in terms of their foundation and implementation.

It is necessary for those persons and organizations endeavoring for national reconciliation to have a clear outlook of the differences of these policies and programs. The work is clearly defined when there is a clear outlook.

There are two schools of thought today in Myanmar. One school of thought is the Utopian National Reconciliation Policy [preceding four words given in English]. It prescribes separating the military and parliamentary frameworks with the representatives of the people who control the state, and immediately introduce these principles that can be established in the modern major industrial countries.

The second school of thought is Objective National Reconciliation Policy [preceding four words published in English]. It prescribes participation of the Defense Services in national politics (legislature and executive). The second school of thought did not emerge without reason. It is came as a natural result of the social and political developments, which Myanmar experienced in the independence era. This school of thought is deeply rooted in erroneous beliefs leading to the prevalence of threats from the armed insurgency; as well as diversity in insurgency that is not found elsewhere in the world, the protracted period of the civil war, and the leap toward socialist system. We accept, in principle, the well-entrenched tradition that "The Defense Services should only be responsible for national defense" under the division of labor in national politics [preceding four words published in English] practiced in major democratic nations of West Europe. In view of the circumstances that Myanmar has undergone, however, there are currently no concrete conditions in Myanmar society that would allow such division of labor (separate framework for the military and the Parliament). There is still a need for Myanmar leaders and the people of Myanmar to use their own political experience toward this end.

As to the claim by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi that "the Burmese people had experienced a parliamentary era," a thorough scrutiny would show that such an era was established while internal insurgency and terrorism were raging. The AFPFL [Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League] at the time had no choice but to commit acts that countered democratic practice. In the course of the independence era, the era of erroneous belief in the leap toward socialism was longer than such poorly defined period.

Dear Daw Aung San Suu Kyi:

We read in the news that soon after your release from detention, Daw Suu said: "There was no such demand in the movement for democracy. But, it's open to negotiation" [preceding five words rendered in English] in a response to the question "What is your attitude toward the demand by the Defense Services for the right to participate in national politics?"

Daw Su, it is necessary for you to declare publicly your attitude toward the two policies on national reconciliation. This will also constitute building mutual trust which would pave the way toward dialogue.

3. Practical Programs which should be implemented to pave the way toward an objective national reconciliation policy which is nonutopian and pragmatic

In the intitial period of establishing national reconciliation, there must be mutual confidence building [preceding three words rendered in English] among national forces who are disunited due to various beliefs and reasons of the past. If this stage is properly established the process of dialogue will be smooth and fast.

Dialogue plays a role even in the policy of eradication and annihilation. The unconditional surrender of Germany and Japan was arranged through dialogue. Dear Daw Aung San Suu Kyi:

Since you were unable to accurately define your conviction regarding the two policies on national reconciliation, confusion emerges in program implementation.

In the process of mutual confidence building among national forces there are likely to be agreements as well as disagreements among them. These areas of agreement should be used to bring about unity in action [preceding three words rendered in English]. Areas of disagreement should be thrashed out with maximum patience, perseverance, and tolerance based on the spirit of national reconciliation.

If there is a delay in the process of mutual confidence building, there should be:

A. self-criticism and a search for one's mistakes;

B. overcoming by waiting and your own experience in being patient, if the other side does not understand or accept your views.

Furthermore, a firm conviction of achieving national reconciliation may entail a willingness to suffer and a spirit of sacrifice to build up trust unilaterally.

Our attitude is directly opposite to what is being said in some sectors as well as foreign radios that "There is a Nelson Mandela in Myanmar, but no de Klerk" or "The British Government which the independence struggle confronted had higher standards." Unlike the maxim: "If you are good, I will not be bad," our attitude is not that of retaliation.

For instance, following the failure of the 1963 internal peace talks, Thakin Soe, general secretary [of the Communist Party of Burma], who was determined to establish peace, took unilateral action to establish peace. He allowed his top leadership to be detained to hold peace talks with the government within the legal framework. In the jungle he instructed his forces not to launch an offensive and to retaliate only in self-defense and to avoid such attacks.

There have been many endeavors since 1963 to fulfill the strong desire for peace. However, only since 1990 are prospects for peace emerging in Myanmar.

[27 May p 5] 4. Activities that hamper the development of mutual trust

A. Attitude on obtaining public labor

Practical works have been compared [to developed nations], neglecting the historical difference, because of the unclear fundamental understanding of national reconciliation. In modern developed countries, the expenditure for public works [preceding two words rendered in English] was allocated from the State budget, but in developing countries the State is unable to fully allocate State funds. Needs will be greater if achievements are to be reached over a shorter period of time. That is why seeking voluntary public labor has become a necessity. Furthermore, it is a period of foreign aid sanctions — the consequence of a call for the immediate establishment of democratic principles — that prevents the country from receiving low-interest, long-term loans from major international organizations such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. It is comparable to the past Burma Socialist Program Party era which was able to build infrastructures [preceding word rendered in English] such as the Nawin Dam in Prome, Rangoon-Prome Highway, and the Sedawgyi Dam in Mandalay with such loans and without obtaining voluntary labor.

If the second policy of national reconciliation is implemented, programs under the policy should be coordinated constructively utilizing people's voluntary labor with more emphasis on administrative, social, and health activities rather than burdening people with development works and creating a conflict with crop cultivation.

In the same context, internal strife and the inability to use the transportation mechanism (the country's lack of modernization) are the main causes for acquiring porters [preceding word rendered in English]. If acquiring porters is condemned and criticized without finding a solution to these basic causes, national reconciliation will not be achieved and the gap will further widen. At present, peace has emerged in regions where armed conflicts once reigned and in accord with the universal principle — there will be no effect without any cause — the issue of acquiring porters will die a natural death.

B. Inflow of foreign investments after achievement of democracy

Daw Suu said foreign investments should wait until democracy is achieved; most investments are in the hotel sector; there is a need to build more hospitals and schools; the gap between the rich and the poor is widening; and the goodwill and generosity [of the people] has decreased.

Since foreign investors are private entrepreneurs they will not invest just to aid in the development of a particular country. They will come with their own interests in mind and this concept will remain regardless of the government in power. They all come because they believe the travel industry and the extraction of natural resources in Burma to have immediate benefits. As a blessing in disguise [preceding three words rendered in English], these will definitely generate new jobs, as well as the flow of further investment and new technology. Developing countries must first develop labor intensive industries [preceding three words rendered in English] and later transform themselves into capital and technical intensive industries [preceding five words rendered in English]. Look at the ASEAN countries today.

The present government is soliciting foreign entrepreneurs to donate to social welfare [preceding two words rendered in English] causes. This will continue even under a civilian government and if it is discarded it will amount to rejecting a principle step of development.

Conclusion

The authorities prevented the holding of a public charity program last new year's day [17 April — Burmese New Year Day] to avoid unnecessary circumstances from occurring. We welcomed Daw Suu's acceptance of this prohibition. We support the democratic principle of freedom to public gatherings. On the other hand, the authorities still believe the threat, that agent provocators [preceding two words rendered in English] could create uncontrollable circumstances, continues to exist. (During recent demonstrations for democracy in Thailand, Chamlong, the leader of the democracy movement, was unable to control the situation and the army had to use force.) The opposition force that wants to build national reconciliation needs to understand that fear and should cooperate.

In conclusion, why was there no implementation of dialogue? In response, first find out if there are any weaknesses on your side; and even if the other party does not understand or accept your views, you should still build national reconciliation in the spirit of sacrifice.

I strongly warn you beforehand that if you are shallow and follow the imaginative national reconciliation path, you will be unavoidably pushed to intimidating, pressuring, and coercing the present government. Then, the objective of rebuilding the country based on the national reconciliation policy will crumble and the country and the entire populace will roam in the abyss of sufferings and confrontation.

Burma: 'Thousands' Rally Outside Aung San Suu Kyi's Home

BK0106112096 Hong Kong AFP in English 1110 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rangoon, June 1 (AFP) — Thousands of people rallied outside the home of Aung San Suu Kyi Saturday for the second week in another strong show of support for the Burmese opposition leader.

Some 4,000 people gathered outside Aung San Suu Kyi's lakeside home to hear her outline the political and economic aims of her National League for Democracy (NLD) following a key pro-democracy meeting last week.

"We are going to increase the party's momentum, as is our right," she told the crowds of cheering supporters, as she announced the party's decision to lay out a new constitution and economic package.

The official media has been reporting pro-government rallies bringing together tens of thousands of people across the country, apparently in response to huge turnouts in front of Aung San Suu Kyi's house last week.

Saturday's meeting in front of Aung San Suu Kyi's house, while well attended, was slightly smaller than the 5,000 who attended the rally on May 25 and the 10,000 who showed up on May 26.

Burma: Further on Rally; 'More Than 100' NLD Members Released

BK0106121496 Hong Kong AFP in English 1158 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rangoon, June 1 (AFP) — Thousands of people rallied outside the home of Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Saturday, as the ruling junta released 100 party activists from detention.

Some 4,000 people gathered outside Aung San Suu Kyi's lakeside home to hear her outline the political and economic aims of her National League for Democracy (NLD) following a key pro-democracy meeting last week.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner also told the cheering crowd that the party had confirmed that more than 100 of the 262 NLD activists detained last week ahead of the meeting had been released.

NLD vice chairman Tin Oo told AFP that all but a handful of the detained activists had reportedly been freed, but that the party was awaiting confirmation from more remote districts across the country.

But, he said, "we are concerned that some of the people will be detained for quite a time," particularly Win Htein, a senior aide to Aung San Suu Kyi, and her press secretary Aye Win.

Tin Oo said that Win Htein was due to be charged on Wednesday under Burma's draconian public security laws.

Aung San Suu Kyi and diplomats here have voiced concern that the authorities could take advantage of the detentions to impose long prison terms on senior NLD members picked up in the sweep.

Saturday's address was the first time that Aung San Suu Kyi had announced to the public her party's plans, which include a new constitution and an economic package decided upon at the party congress last week.

"We are going to increase the party's momentum, as is our right," she told the crowds of cheering supporters.

Saturday's meeting, while well attended, was slightly smaller than the 5, 000 who came on May 25 and the 10,000 who showed up on May 26.

The NLD's decision to hold the meeting, the first in a series of party congresses, has met with a constant stream of attacks in the official media against Aung San Suu Kyi and the opposition.

Opposition activists have been blasted as "destructionists" in the pay of foreign governments seeking to destabilize the state, a charge that Aung San Suu Kyi has called "paranoid."

"The activities of our party are not meant to attack or criticize anybody, they are merely the legitimate activities of a registered political party," she said.

"It's a kind of mental illness, this paranoia, that makes the government think that everyone is out to destroy them," she told her supporters.

The official press has reported an endless stream of pro-government rallies taking place across the county in the past week, with tens of thousands of people turning out to denounce the "destructionists."

Analysts here say the rallies, which many participants say they are forced to attend, came in response to the huge crowds which gathered outside Aung San Suu Kyi's house last weekend.

The releases, which were announced in the local press, are being seen as an effort by the junta to return to the situation that existed before the detentions brought massive press coverage and focused international attention on Burma.

"Unless something big happens, things will return to normal, which means going back to their systematic harassment of NLD members across the country," one analyst said.

A number of foreign governments have denounced the detentions, and the United States, which has long pressured the junta to clean up its human rights record, has been hinting at imposing sanctions on Burma.

Burma: 'Translation' of NLD Congress Resolution

BK0306032796 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 2 Jun 96

["Official translation" of the resolution adopted at the National League for Democracy [NLD] Congress in Rangoon on 26-28 May]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The congress unanimously adopted the resolution that the representatives elected in the democratic general elections of 1990 remain as legitimate members of parliament until the end of the term affirmed by the members themselves when the preliminary assembly convenes.

Further, the conference made the following decision:

1. Records and accepts as guiding principles the content of the speeches of the chairman and the general secretary.

2. Endorses and affirms: the report by the Central Executive Committee [CEC] on the work of the NLD from the time it was founded to the present day; and the views and recommendations of the papers on politics, the state constitution, economic, farmers and peasants, human rights and legal matters.

Human Rights

3. Records and endorses resolution (A/C-3/50/L-52) on the situation of human rights in Myanmar [Burma] adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December, 1995.

4. Records and endorses the report (CN-4/1996/65) submitted by Professor Yozo Yokata to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, and records the deep appreciation of the NLD for Professor Yokota's sincere efforts in the cause of human rights in Burma.

Central Executive Committee

5. Endorses the reinstatement and appointment to office of party leaders U Tin U, U Kyi Maung and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in the NLD in accordance with party regulations.

Political Prisoners

6. Requests the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] for the speedy and unconditional release of all political prisoners, including members of the NLD.

7. Urges the SLORC for the immediate release of elected members of parliament of the NLD and other members of the NLD who have been arrested and charged since 19 May 1996.

Election Results

8. Urges the Multi-Party Elections Commission to present its long overdue final report on the General Elections held six years ago.

9. Endorses the content of the letter of the chairman of the NLD, dated 25 March 1996, addressed to the Chairman of the SLORC, asking that arrangements be made for the elected members of parliament to discuss and to fix the date for the opening of the first session of the elected parliamentary assembly.

Dialogue

10. International practice indicates that dialogue is the only way in which political problems can be resolved problems through dialogue these problems will never by resolved. [sentence as received] Therefore, the congress strongly urges the SLORC to initiate dialogue as soon as possible with the aim of effecting national reconciliation and the integrity of the Union.

National Convention

11. In its present from the National Convention will not be able to achieve national reconciliation, the propagation of democracy or the emergence of a state constitution acceptable to the people. The Congress endorses and affirms the decision of the NLD to refrain from participating in the National Convention until such time as necessary discussions have been successfully initiated.

12. Endorses the submission of the NLD to the National Convention that parliament should be comprised only of representatives elected by the people exercising their sovereign right.

Armed Forces

13. The armed forces is a necessary organization for the country. The Congress endorses the view of the NLD that the armed forces should be an honorable institution that will defend and implement democratic principles.

Rights of political parties

14. (a) The SLORC proclaimed that state power would be returned to its original owner, the people, as soon as possible, in accordance with democratic practices.

(b) On 15 August 1995, the Chairman of the SLORC said that legitimate political groups were also relevant to the efforts of the Armed Forces to effect national reconciliation and that the Armed Forces were constantly trying to work in unity with all political parties for the good of the nation.

(c) Moreover, on 8 April 1996, the chairman of the SLORC said in a speech at the Defense Services Academy in Pyin Oo Lwin [Maymyo] that "the Tatmadaw [Armed Forces] never ignores political parties and it is important to work for the nation's benefit."

The Congress therefore urges strongly that as the NLD is a legally registered political party, all hindrances, obstacles and restrictions placed upon is right to operate freely and effectively as a political party acting in accordance with democratic practices be removed as soon as possible.

Prohibitions

15. Endorses the content of the letters of the Chairman of the NLD, dated 23 April 1996 and 26 April 1996, to the Chairman of the SLORC concerning lawless acts of the authorities with regard to members and supporters of the NLD.

Union Solidarity and Development Association [USDA]

16. Endorses the content of the letter of 7 May 1996 (of the Chairman of the NLD) to the Chairman of the SLORC concerning activities of the USDA aimed at disrupting the peaceful political work of the NLD.

Working Program of the NLD

17. The NLD aims at the successful establishment of a genuine democratic state and is an organization working within the legal fold. Therefore the Congress decides that:

(a) the NLD should exist and operate with integrity within the state;

(b) Solidarity should be firmly maintained among its members;

(c) That until such time as the party can be recognized in accordance with its democratically based constitution the NLD should continue to operate unitedly under the leadership, and in accordance with the policies and principles, of the Central Executive Committee.

18. The Congress gives its mandate to the CEC to assume responsibility for the future working program of the NLD and to take action as necessary.

19. The Congress entrusts to the CEC the responsibility of drafting, in the interest of the democratic cause, a state constitution that would win the support of the people.

20. The Congress entrusts to the responsibility for preparing an economic package aimed at implementing the programs in the policy papers on the economy (presented to the Congress.)

21. The Congress entrusts to the CEC the responsibility for drawing up an agriculture policy and program.

22. Honors the members of the party who lost their lives during the period from the time the NLD was registered on 27 September 1988 until today, and records our deep sorrow at the loss of these members before we have reached our goal of democracy.

Burma: SLORC's Khin Nyunt Berates 'Neocolonialists,' 'Sycophants'

BK0106170696 Rangoon TV Myanmar Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, chairman of the Work Committee for the Development of Border Areas and National Races and secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], attended and delivered an address at the closing of Refresher Course No. 2 for officers of the Development Affairs Department at the Central Institute of Civil Service's Training Hall in Hmawbi at 1230 today. [passage omitted on attendees]

In his address, SLORC Secretary-1 Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt said the development of basic regions such as towns and villages is essential in the SLORC's efforts to establish a peaceful, tranquil, modern, and developed nation. [passage omitted on regional development programs]

The SLORC Government's undertakings and constructive development works are based on and emerged from the correct policy, firm spirit, and straightforward goodwill. These undertakings are in a position to be recorded in history. Based on the national unity spirit that is cherished equally by all the national brethren, the union spirit that will never allow the union to disintegrate due to external instigation, and the spirit and conviction to safeguard sovereignty that will never allow the race to disappear under the influence of another country, the SLORC has been practicing and giving importance to the three national causes [nondisintegration of the union, nondisintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of national sovereignty] as national policies. [passage omitted on meaning of national spirit and preservation of patriotism]

On the other side, a group of imperialists' sycophants with a negative outlook are using shortcuts to obtain power. One can see that with assistance from overseas, they are working to put this country under the influence of other countries and are following plans laid down by outsiders without considering anyone else. Every day one can see and hear that the overseas masters that control the world media are instigating their followers with fabricated words — as if the internal affairs of Myanmar [Burma] were the world's concern — and are trying to blockade Myanmar from all sides to cause Myanmar difficulty.

Today, the national races and people are unhappy with the neocolonialists and their sycophants who want to sacrifice the peaceful livelihood of the people and who give importance to their selfish interests. One can see every day that people who do not want to see the recurrence of an appalling situation like that of 1988 are holding mass rallies all over the country to support the SLORC's constructive development works that are being carried out day and night for the country and to denounce destructionists. One can also see that people at these mass rallies are strongly expressing their wish to oppose the pessimists and the minions that rely on the foreign countries, to oppose those who disrupt and disturb the stability and development of the state, to oppose foreign countries that interfere in the internal affairs of the state, and to annihilate the destructionists inside and outside the country as a common enemy.

The SLORC, in accordance with the wishes of the people, will attack and overcome any disruption and obstacle to the country's interests and follow the correct path to implement the political, economic, and social objectives until they are achieved by joining hands with the people in accordance with the national directives. [passage omitted on award presenting ceremony]

Burma: National Democratic Front Condemns Arrest of NLD Members

BK0106085496 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 30 May 96

[Statement issued by the National Democratic Front Central Committee on 30 May; place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 1. The mass arrest of members of parliament of the National League for Democracy (NLD) shows that the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] is acting expressly in opposition to the democratic rights of a legally instituted political party so as to perpetuates its military dictatorship. We, the National Democratic Front (NDF), strongly protest and condemn these acts of perfidy.

2. At the conference of the NLD, held on May 27, 1996, the eminent leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her speech to the masses, mentioned that the NLD leadership is determined to struggle on, a step further, for the removal of the military dictatorship and the establishment of a democratic system, yearned for by the people. The NDF's regards this as a pledge to firmly fulfill the will and defend the interest of the entire people.

3. It is evident that the refusal to transfer power, up to this day, to the NLD which won 85% of the seats contested in the May 1990 general election, the holding of a sham national convention, making its lackey organization, the so called Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA), to demonstrate its support to the 104 principles for a state constitution laid down by the sham national convention and etc., are blatant attempts by the SLORC to perpetuate and consolidate the military dictatorship.

4. Representing all the nationalities and the entire people, the NDF has been struggling for the emergence of a genuine federal union based on equality and self-determination. This struggle has been going on since the time of Burma's independence in 1948.

5. Some resistance organizations of the nationalities, for various reasons, have to agree to a truce with the SLORC. Though they are desirous of resolving the political problems by political means, it is clear that the SLORC is not anxious to show even a pretense of willingness to resolve political problems through a political dialogue.

6. The SLORC military clique will never forsake its dictatorial powers and ill-gotten privileges easily. It will continue to use various strategies so as to cling on to them forever. Accordingly, it is vitally necessary for the pro-democracy forces led by Daw Aung San Suu

Kyi, and the resistance forces of the nationalities to coordinate their struggles.

7. We, the NDF, seriously call upon the SLORC to release all the members of parliament arrested since May 20th, and all the political prisoners arrested previously.

8. If the SLORC continued to perpetrate the repression, the situation will deteriorate into a more dangerous state and, if so the SLORC will be held entirely responsible for it.

9. We, the NLD, earnestly call upon the governments, the NGOs [nongovernmental organizations] and the democratic forces of the world to strongly condemn the SLORC for its unjust acts, including the arrest of members of parliament from the NLD, and apply pressure on the SLORC by effective means so that the democratic system will be established sooner, in Burma.

10. We, the NDF, call upon officers and troops of the Burma Army to remember that the army was born of the people and its primary duties are to protect the lives and interest of the people. Now is the time for them to boldly stand up and stoutly act in defense of the interest of the people and their very lives.

Central Committee National Democratic Front

Date, 30 May 96

Burma: Article Says Suu Kyi, BBC Inciting Public Disturbance

BK0106111796 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR in English 28 May 96 p 5

[Article by Shwe Min Tha: "Going Wrong, Again"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After the article "You are still young" appeared in the newspaper, a retired senior official of the civil service said. "It's very good, constructive, telling what is right to Daw Suu Kyi. Carry on!". There is nothing untrue in what I am presenting. As an onlooker, I see what is not good, what is not right. So I am giving objective criticism, in order that the people would not have a wrong view, I am not rambling just because of applause. I am writing the truth as it is.

When I read Dominic Fauler's interview with Daw Suu Kyi in Asiaweek (3 May 1996) titled "Democracy activist Suu kyi argues for boycott," I felt so sad, noting she's going wrong again, going wrong in succession. To the question, "So would you support a boycott? and ask people not to visit, she replied. "Certainly, I would." You've gone wrong again, Daw Suu Kyi, you've gone wildly wrong again.

In that same interview, I noticed, she was inconsistent. For instance, she said at one point "Those who invest in Burma or do business with Burma at the moment will find that they are not going to make the profits that they hoped for." At another point, she said, "The economic program that the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] is trying to follow is that which was laid out by the NLD [National League for Democracy] in 1988, without the framework that we foresaw for such a program." These words were said by her. If so, why say "don't come, don't come in, don't make investments" in a program of the same economic policy? So bewildering! One moment she said "Boycott" and the next she said "the economic program is the same". What's all that? Now this, and later that! So inconsistent! Saying two different things at the same time! These correspondents of Asiaweek are championing such things as democracy and human rights. They would not write to degrade Daw Suu Kyi. Going wrong, again!

Then, in the same interview, she said "I think the human rights record of SLORC is so bad and its getting worse. She was just saying what was taught by mentors of the West Bloc. Musa Hitam, former Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, an Asian, and Chairman of United Nations Commission on Human Rights, had repeatedly said that when it came to this matter Westerners could not see as Asians did; they said and did as they wished; in connection with Myanmar [Burma] too, they had the UN view that this problem was there in Myanmar; but the situation was progressing well at the moment, and they would resolve it in their own way. So one should not view and speak of it in a one-sided way like the human rights report submitted to the US State Department by someone like Martin Adams. She should see Myanmar as a Myanmar [Burmese] and act as a Myanmar in matters concerning Myanmar. Some time in 1989/90, while on Shwegyin Nyaungle bin trip, Daw Suu Kyi had lunch at the house of lawyer Chairman of Bago National League for Democracy. One dish at that lunch was a curry of pork and sour bamboo shoots. She took a taste of it and asked what curry it was. She was told it was pork and sour bamboo shoots curry. She said she had never before tasted such a curry. You would probably remember. It is clear how alienated from Myanmar natural conditions you are if you had not tasted sour bamboo shoots in your nearly 50 years of life.

Of late, one thing after another is being done, systematically with advance planning, to mar political stability, instigating disturbances and upheavals. The SLORC has been tolerant. Every time the leaders speak, they sound words of caution, more so in the past three months, repeatedly. However such acts continued with more insolence. Neighboring countries are giving Myanmar due recognition and place more and more, urging it and helping it on to join the ASEAN. The Prime Minister of Japan himself has come to take it seriously for Japan to extend assistance and business activities. This they begrudge. They made moves to thwart it. In that same magazine interview, and explanation was given about the matter if the fish-releasing activity during Thingyan. I am one away in forests and mountains upcountry, running a modest private business. Reading that magazine interview, I knew that Daw Suu Kyi associates were once again instigating public disturbances and upheavals. During Thingyan the young revelled in water throwing, some drank more during Thingyan, and some did so with excesses, and such unruliness was an opportunity for your political machination. If someone had just poked a burning stick during that pretext of fish releasing activity, there would have broken out, a big clash. Then, political wild cats would step in, with igniting fires and move to create upheavals. When these had to be suppressed, you would shout; thus the fire from trash would burn the tier-roofed structure. Leaders of the State who love the country foresaw this danger. They moved to pre-empt it. The BBC upped and shouted, saying it was not permitted even to hold a fish-releasing activity. Those who knew how to handle administration acted to pre-empt what should not come about. That was a bomb timed to explode at a time the people were not aware. Because it was pre-empted the people were spared.

They made move after move systematically to create disturbances. That was why the leaders had been sounding words of caution not to lose sight of interference from abroad. Now again, a stunt is being acted out, feigning as if it was to hold the 6th anniversary of the elections, as though the representatives of the National League for democracy were going to write the constitution primarily to act in concert with the BBC and perpetrating whatever, would be possible in the given opportunity. The BBC is sounding instigations and propaganda, and as the mentors advise, the party is sacrificing their followers as pawns feeding them to detention, politically clouding their thinking, mollifying them that they would get political marks if they got detained; and when they did get detained, they would shout violation of human rights. It was like crying out loudly when they were about to be hit back by someone they stealthily pinched in the thigh. They are just going wild as they wish, with the idea that the people must accept what they wanted to do, they did not care if there was no participation of all races and organizations; there need be no participation of workers, peasants, intelligentsia and intellectuals, service personnel or other political parties; their party would do what it pleased. Political exposure should not be sought with cunning machination. Act honestly. One should not conspire to mar the political progress that has gained stability and economic progress that is headed towards further advancement. If you carry on with the notion that you would break the main drum if you did not get the main role in the drama, you'd go wrong again.

In the leadership of the National League for Democracy, there was a old socialist. He is in the same group as U Aung Shwe. Before the 1990 elections, nomination was made for Daw Suu Kyi to stand for election in one constituency in Yangon. Within the National league for democracy, on one side were the legal experts and on the other were former socialists; they talked over the matter that she could not be nominated by law. At that time the by gone ex-socialist secretary had said "We must ask for money showing the monkey. Let anything happen. We must strive to win." In this connection, at a chance meeting with Daw Myint Myint Khin, advocate and member of the Central Executive Committee of the National League for democracy, a question was put to her "Here, learned advocate, according to the election law, you could not nominate Daw Suu. Didn't you explain the law?" She said "My friend, of course I did explain the law but the secretary said it's asking for the money by showing the monkey." Well, is there anything good at all?

In relations with the SLORC, the policy held at all times is the confrontational role, with the idea "if he says white, I'll say black." Such a stance is not good to be held everywhere. It is not always right, either. It would be a different matter if it is done for the love of a joke. But it could make one a culprit in history. For instance, there was something said about Hlinethaya new town. Now that Hlinethaya today has become an industrial city, what had been said turned out to be utterly wrong.

And then, Daw Suu Kyi was speaking of 'dialogue, dialogue' all the time. At the same time, the other day BBC broadcast what was said. I distinctly heard "Let's meet for dialogue and argue and fight at the table." How nice! If one talks much, one's talk shows one's colours. When you are rearing to talk hostile, who would accept you in dialogue? I don't know if she is thinking 'dialogue' to be a school debate. So petty! If she really wants dialogue, Daw Suu Kyi should show conciliatory acts and speak of matters that should be discussed in a dialogue at the table, matters of life and death for the country, ways to get out of stringency, matters to be resolved hand in hand. Setting preconditions before meeting, saying as dictated by the mentors, getting together with relatives and asking help to exert pressure, feeding stuff and fabricating things for exerting international pressure, resorting to such devious ways to get to the discussion table - all that is so harmful to the ones so fed.

Let me say that the scheme of taking May 27 as a pretext, convincing with broadcasting stations abroad to perpetrate instigations, calling a meeting of Hluttaw representatives inside the country and having them make demands, and also having the media abroad shout loudly as synchronized in advance, and having the internally organized stooges of external elements make noises is a wrong after wrongs.

Burma: Pro-SLORC Rallies Held in Rangoon, Magwe 28 May

BK0106125296 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 28 May 96

[FBIS Summary] A mass rally to support the government development projects and to denounce "destructionists" was held at the Padomma Sports Grounds in Sangyaung Township this morning. It was attended by over 40,000 people from 13 townships in West Rangoon District. During his address at the rally, Dr. Hla Pe, chairman of the rally and medical superintendent of the West Rangoon Hospital from Kemmendine Township, notes the endeavors of the national races to regain independence. He also detailed the State Law and Order Restoration Council's [SLORC] efforts to develop the country after rescuing it from the brink of disintegration during the 1988 disturbance. He adds that while the people are proud and enjoying the country's all-round development, those who give importance to their selfish interests and who are lackeys and rely on foreign countries are conspiring to enslave the country by wreaking all kinds of destruction. He then explains the importance of holding the National Convention to draw up a new state constitution by various delegates groups. He says: "There is no way that we can tolerate lackeys inside the country who are obstructing the surging development now taking place due to the implementation of political, economic, and social objectives, and those from abroad who are conspiring to create disturbances and to destabilize the country." In conclusion, he calls on the public to unite and fight the foreign-influenced lackeys and destructionists who are destroying the development and stability of the Union of Burma and creating disturbances in the country.

After the chairman's address, Dr. Pe Kyan, adviser to the Burmese Calender Committee from Sangyaung Township, proposed a motion to support the SLORC's development projects and to denounce the "destructionists". The rally ended after the motion was endorsed by Ma Aye Nu Khine, a graduate student from Hlaing Township doing her Masters on the Burmese language, and those who attended the rally.

A similar mass rally was held at the District Sports Grounds in Magwe this morning and attended by more than 36,300 people.

During his address at the rally, U Khin Maung Shwe, chairman of the rally and professor of the Magwe University's Geology Department, notes the considerable success achieved by implementing the political, economic and social objectives for the emergence of modern, peaceful, tranquil, and genuine multi-party democratic nation. He adds that for the emergence of democratic nation, the elected representatives are coordinating the laying down of basic principles at the National Convention in a cordial and respectful manner. He also details the return of jungle-based armed groups to the legal fold to join hands with the SLORC to carry out regional development programs and SLORC's achievements in other areas. He says the traitors and "destructionists" are disrupting and destroying peace and tranquility of the country, while it is enjoying peace and development. People had already faced the appalling 1988 disturbance and nobody desires the same kind of situation again. The power-crazy "destructionists" desire this but we will never allow our country to become a second Bosnia. It is the essential duty of all the national races to fight all kinds of destructive elements. In conclusion, he says let's support the SLORC's constructive development projects and denounce "destructionists".

After the address, Daw Yin Yin Myint from Soekawmin Ward in Magwe proposed a motion to support the SLORC's constructive development projects and to denounce the "destructionists". The rally was ended after the motion was endorsed by U Myo Myint Thaung from Kanthaya Ward and those attending rally.

Burma: Pro-Government Rallies Held in Myitkyina, Shwebo 29 May

BK0206091496 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Summary] A mass rally to support the State Law and Order Restoration Council's [SLORC] constructive development works and to denounce "destructionists" who are "opposing and sabotaging" the progress and achievements of the state was held at the Yangyi Aung Sports Grounds in Shewbo, Sagaing Division on the morning of 29 May. The rally was attended by over 48,000 people from six townships.

U Taik Gyi Maung, chairman of the rally and chairman of the Shwebo Local Residents Group, addressed the rally. After his address, U Than Tun, principal of the Youth Development School in Shwebo, proposed a motion to support the SLORC constructive development works and to denounce "destructionists." The motion was endorsed by U Tin, a local resident of Shwebo; Daw Khin Mya Than, principal of the No. 1 Basic Education Middle School in Shwebo; Maung Nanda Kyaw Thu, a second year student from Shwebo College, who is majoring in botany; Bamahtee Khin Aung, a writer from Shwebo, and the people attending the rally.

The rally with ended with the people boisterously chanting slogans: "Those who cause disturbance are our enemies; Those who mar the stability of the state are our enemies; Those who disrupt and obstruct the progress of the state are our enemies; The foreign-reliant minions who dishonor the race are our enemies; Attack and destroy the destructionists from overseas who are interfering in our internal affairs."

A similar rally was held at the State People's Sports Grounds in Myitkyina on 29 May and was attended by more than 73,000 people from Myitkyina and Waingmaw Townships. At that rally, U Kin Sin Naw, a Kachin national from Tatkon Village, chaired the rally and delivered an address. After the chairman's address, Daw Mon Mon Lay, principal of the No. 2 Basic Education High School in Myitkyina, made a motion to support the SLORC constructive development works and to denounce "destructionists." After the motion was endorsed by U Keti Tu Mahn, head of the State Culture Department in Myitkyina; U Tin Tun, rector of the Myitkyina Degree College; and the people attending the rally, the rally ended with chanting of slogans.

Burma: Syriam, Monywa Rallies Denounce 'Destructionists'

BK0106100596 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Summary] A mass rally to support the government's development projects and to denounce "destructionists" was held at the Thiladepa Sports Grounds in Syriam today. The rally was attended by over 43,000 people from nine townships in South Rangoon District.

In his address at the rally, U Maung Maung Aye, chairman of the rally and retired primary school headmaster, notes that the destructive forces that yearn for power are hindering development and destroying peace and tranquility, and the prevalence of law and order in the country while the State Law and Order Restoration Council's [SLORC] is making progress in all directions. He also urges the people to annihilate the enemies within and outside the country, and warns the destructive elements not to try to exploit innocent youths.

After the chairman's address, U Tin Win, an entrepreneur from Myomakyaung Ward in Syriam, proposes a motion to support the SLORC's development projects and to denounce the "destructionists." The rally ended after the motion was endorsed by U Kyaw Lay, a retired school principal from Bogyoke Village in Syriam, and the people attending the rally.

The same report says a similar rally was held also in Monywa, Sagaing Division on 28 May attended by over 20,000 people. During his address at the rally, Dr. Maung Htu, principal of the Monywa Degree College, says the destructive elements, who cannot stand to see the SLORC's achievements, are working to disrupt the country's development and to destroy its peace and stability. He also says that "destructionists" are taking the confrontational path and want to create a disturbance like the one in 1988. He urges the people to oppose these "destructionists."

After his speech, Dr. Tin Aye Swe, medical superintendent of the Monywa People's Hospital, proposed a motion to support the SLORC's development projects and to denounce the "destructionists". The rally ended after the motion was endorsed by Dr. Chit Shwe, professor of the Monywa Degree College's Physic Department, and the people attending the rally.

Burma: Antiopposition Rallies Held in Mandalay, Hmawbi 29, 30 May

BK0106162396 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 30 May 96

[FBIS Summary] A mass rally to support the government's development projects and denounce "destructionists" was held at the Bahtoo Sports Grounds in Mandalay on the morning of 29 May. It was attended by over 42,000 people from seven townships.

During his address at the rally, U Lu Ni, chairman of the rally and rector of the Mandalay Institute of Education, noted what he called the country's stability; achievements in the economic and social sectors; the State Law and Order Restoration Council's [SLORC] development projects; the surrender of the jungle-based armed groups to joins hands with the government in implementing regional development schemes; the SLORC's national consolidation work; the success achieved at the National Convention in laying down basic principles; and the implementation of political, economic, and social objectives. He said all patriotic and sincere people who want to see all-around development within a short time take pride that the country is now arriving in a "golden age." "Let me say that there are still destructive elements in the country that we must be mindful of. Foreign lackeys with a negative and destructive outlook pessimistically criticize everything they hear and see and incite riots. We must be aware of the danger from a group of people whose strings are pulled from overseas and who are working to destroy political stability, peace, and tranquility." In conclusion, he stressed the need to prevent "internal and external destructionists" from following a "path of disturbance." He said people who love national peace and tranquility must denounce any disturbances aided by foreigners that interfere in the country's affairs and the destructive activities of foreign-influenced "pessimists" and should join hands with the government to work for development and stability.

After the chairman's address, U Tin Shwe from Thirimala East Ward in Aungmyethazan Township proposed a motion to support the SLORC's development projects and denounce "destructionists." The rally ended after the motion was endorsed by Dr. Soe Tun, rector of the Mandalay Institute of Medicine from Chanayethazan Township; Daw Tin Tin Wai of Pyegyitagun Township; and the people attending the meeting.

A similar mass rally was held at the Township Sports Grounds in Hmawbi on 30 May. It was attended by over 77,000 people from eight townships in North Rangoon District. At the rally, U Yan Naung, chairman of the rally and headmaster of the No. 1 Basic Education High School in Hmawbi Township, delivered an address. After his address, Daw Than Than Oo, senior assistant teacher from the same school, proposed a motion to support the SLORC's development projects and denounce "destructionists." The mass rally ended after the motion was endorsed by U Soe Han, assistant township education officer, and the people attending the meeting.

Burma: More Pro-SLORC Rallies Held in Tavoy, Kale, Henzada 30 May

BK0206113696 Rangoon TV Myanmar Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Summary] A mass rally to support the State Law and Order Restoration Council's [SLORC] constructive development works and to denounce "destructionists" was held at the Division Sports Grounds in Tavoy on the morning of 30 May. The rally was attended by nearly 45,000 people from four townships. At the rally, U Than Shwe, advocate of the Central Court in Tavoy, acted as chairman of the rally and delivered an address. In his address, he noted the SLORC's efforts to safeguard the country from the appalling situation in 1988, and its implementation of the necessary political, economic, and social objectives. He said there are people who are unhappy with the state's ability to work on a self-reliant basis. There are also "foreign-reliant minions" who think the country would be better if their work could satisfy the aliens. He says they do not realize that they are not only foreign-reliant, but have reached to the stage of "national traitors." U Than Shwe says it is clear that they are striving to form a "foreign-influenced government" while making contact with overseas.

U Than Shwe added that people have to get together in order to get those who plan to sell the country and the people for the benefit of one group, one party, and one organization. He said one day "a great danger" will befall the country if "we knowingly tolerate" the impediments of the country. Not only this, he adds, the country will be bullied and subjected to overseas influence. In conclusion, he urged the people to attack, destroy, and denounce all internal and external destructionists who are destroying the stability of the country.

After his address, Daw Mya Than, a teacher from No.4 Basic Education Middle School in Tavoy, proposed a motion to support the SLORC's constructive development works and to denounce "destructionists." After the motion was endorsed by U Tun Kyi, manager of the Tavoy District Trade and Agriculture Department, and the people attending the rally, the rally ended with the chanting of slogans.

A similar ceremony was also held at the People's Sports Grounds in Kale, Sagaing Division on the morning of 30 May and it was attended by more than 21,000 people. At the rally, U Nyunt Oo, chairman of the Township War Veteran Organization, acted as chairman and delivered an address. After his address, U Ohn from Aung Thitsa Ward, and Daw Kyi Sint from Nyaungbintha Ward proposed motions to support the SLORC's constructive development works and to denounce "destructionists." The motion was endorsed by Daw Kyu Kyu Nyein from Aung Mingla Ward, U Lwint Naing from Panglong Ward, and the people attending the rally. The rally ended with chanting of slogans.

A mass rally to support the SLORC's constructive development works and to denounce "destructionists" was held at the People's sports Grounds in Henzada on the morning of 30 May and was attended by over 33,000 people. At the rally, U Mya Win, district education officer, acted as chairman and delivered an address. After the chairman's address, U Than Aung from Natmaw Village proposed a motion to support the SLORC's constructive development works and to denounce "destructionists"; it was endorsed by Daw Nant Soe Soe Khine, a teacher from Henzada College, and people attended the meeting. The rally ended with chanting of slogans.

Burma: Pro-SLORC Mass Rallies Held in Moulmein, Meiktila

BK0306092496 Rangoon TV Myanmar Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 2 Jun 96

[FBIS Summary] A mass rally to express support for the national development endeavors of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and to denounce subversives was held on 31 May at the Ramanya Sports Grounds in Moulmein, Mon State. It was attended by "52,000 people from six townships, who ardently shouted slogans." The rally was attended by departmental personnel, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association [USDA], the Red Cross, Fire Services reserves, school teachers, students, workers, peasants, and people.

Addressing the rally, Dr. Hla Pe, presiding chairman of the rally and rector of Moulmein University, recalled the assumption of state powers by the SLORC in 1988 to save "the country from disintegration" and describes SLORC's subsequent endeavors "to ensure the prevalence of law and order, smooth and secure transportation and communications, the expansion of cooperative and private sectors, and the establishment of a multiparty democratic system desired by the people." He said the minions of foreign powers who do not want the current progress on all fronts under the SLORC are "trying to create a situation similar to the 1988 events, to destroy national stability, and to obstruct national progress." He called on the people to jointly crush, denounce, and ostracize these minions.

Speakers at the rally submitted motions for resolutions praising the achievements under the SLORC government and the development projects being implemented in the Mon State, supporting the constructive endeavors of the SLORC, and denouncing the "instigations of destructive elements aimed at creating unrest and instability in the country." After the motions were seconded by speakers at the rally, the people in attendance at the rally "unanimously supported and adopted the resolutions." The meeting ended successfully with the people chanting the slogans: "Instigator of unrest is our enemy, our enemy;" "Destroyer of national stability is our enemy, our enemy;" "Obstructor of national progress is our enemy, our enemy;" "Minions who rely on foreign powers and destroy our race are our enemy, our enemy;" and "Crush external saboteurs who interfere in internal affairs."

A similar rally was held in Meiktila in Mandalay Division on 31 May. It was attended by over 33,500 from four townships. The rally was attended by departmental personnel, members of the USDA, the Red Cross, and Fire Services reserves, school teachers, students, workers, peasants, and people. Speaking at the rally, U Khin Maung U, dean of Meiktila College, said the mass rallies are being held throughout the country by the people to express their desires. He described the political and economic reforms being implemented by the SLORC following its assumption of state powers to control the 1988 events. He also commended the SLORC for patiently solving the problem of insurgency, citing the return of almost all underground insurgent groups to the legal fold. He expressed concern that "subversive activities and subversive and pessimistic policies which have become active recently could damage and suspend the successes achieved so far." He then invited the people "to support the government's endeavor for national development and to denounce destructive activities." The speakers then submitted motions to express support for the SLORC's endeavors and to denounce the saboteurs.

The rally ended successfully with the shouting of slogans by the people in attendance.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Malaysia: Foreign Minister Notes Condition for Ties With Israel

BK0306064096 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 3 Jun 96 p 2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kepala Batas, Sunday—Malaysia is not yet ready to establish diplomatic relations with Israel, unless the Jewish country is truly sincere about ensuring the success of the peace process with Palestine.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Malaysia, which strongly supports the Palestinian people's struggle, is currently monitoring the current Middle East peace process and whether newly elected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu can implement it.

Speaking here today following the simultaneous official opening of the 63 Kepala Batas UMNO [United Malays National Organization] branch meeting, the minister said: "We are very wary, and it will be difficult for Malaysia to establish diplomatic ties with Israel as long as Palestine is not recognized by Israel, particularly if its claim has not been honored."

Abdullah said there has been no change in Malaysia's stand with regard to its decision not to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. The government will definitely and strongly support Palestine's struggle, which has become a victim of Israel's atrocities.

He said: "It conveys no meaning whatsoever for Malaysia to establish diplomatic ties with Israel if the latter fails to reach a peace agreement with Palestine."

Malaysia: Prime Minister Sees 'Setback' in Middle East Peace Process

BK0206084596 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 2 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Malaysia feels the change in Israel's leadership will frustrate the West Asia [Middle East] peace process. Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed says Benjamin Netanyahu's victory could turn out to be a setback for peace efforts. The prime minister said this at a news conference in Langkawi today.

Dr. Mahathir described the situation in the area 'strange' as both Israeli and Islamic extremists appeared to be cooperating to frustrate the peace efforts. Dr. Mahathir said everyone knew that extremists in Israel would not compromise just like Islamic extremists and when these two groups collaborated, it created a strange situation.

Malaysia: Foreign Minister on Joint Commission Meeting With Manila

BK0206093096 Kuala Lumpur SUNDAY STAR in English 2 Jun 96

[BERNAMA report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuala Lumpur: The development of the East ASEAN Growth Area (EAGA) will not only increase investment opportunities and create jobs but also reduce the number of illegal Filipinos entering Malaysia, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday.

"There will be less inflow of illegal Filipinos," he said when contacted in Manila.

The foreign minister was in the Philippines to attend the third Malaysia-Philippines Joint Commission Meeting (JCM), which ended on Friday [31 May].

The Philippine delegation was headed by Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon.

It was reported yesterday that Malaysia and the Philippines are to set up border crossing points in Bongao and Sitangkay on the Philippine side and Labuan, Kudat, Sandakan and Tawau in Sabah.

The move to set up the border crossing points was to allow passport-free entry with a time limit for residents of coastal areas in the common border.

The scheme is aimed at stemming a flood of economic migrants seeking jobs in Sabah.

Abdullah said the JCM had reviewed the development of EAGA and was satisfied with its progress.

EAGA consists of Mindanao and Palawan in southern Philippines, Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan in Malaysia, East and West Kalimantan and Sulawesi in Indonesia, and Brunei.

Malaysia: Prime Minister Links Mastery of English, National Progress

BK0106144896 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said that mastering foreign languages, especially English, does not pose a threat to the national language, which is the language of unity and solidarity of the Malaysian people. The government will continue its efforts to expand the use of the national language among (?various) communities in the country. He pointed out that many non-Malay students are very fluent in Bahasa Malaysia and can write poems and features in the national language.

The prime minister was [words indistinct] the Yang Dipertuan Agung [Paramount Ruler] Tuanku Ja'afar on the occasion of his majesty's birthday on behalf of the government and people of Malaysia at the Istana Negara [State Palace].

He said the government is encouraging the people to master English so that they can enhance their knowledge in the fields of science and technology. The use of sophisticated science and technology requires the people to have a great command of English. If Malaysians do not make any efforts to master the English language, the country's progress will be affected.

Singapore

Singapore: Lee Kuan Yew Encourages Larger Japanese Role in Asia

BK0306103096 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Jun 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Japan's role in Asia should be wider than it currently is, and should focus on political and economic aspects and not the military, which should be left to the United States.

Senior Minister [SM] Lee Kuan Yew expressed this view during a video-conference with the former Japanese premier, Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone, two weeks ago. SM Lee said it was "far more advantageous and more likely to bring results" if Japan took a leading role in economic and political matters in Asia, and left the military side to Washington.

Elaborating, he said that military problems arose during times of economic hardship or rivalries.

ASEAN countries, for instance, he said, would have had more problems if not for the fact that all were enjoying high growth rates.

The same focus on economic development could be brought about for Asia as a whole, including the Russian Far East.

In this, Japan could play a "very beneficial contributory role," through trade, investment, and social and cultural cooperation, he said.

It had the resources, and was closer to Asian countries than the United States was, being on the other side of the Pacific, he said.

He added that, for its part, the United States could provide military stability and security against any aggressive powers.

In playing their respective roles however, the United States and Japan should not try to exclude China but bring it into line, he warned.

"If we can tone down the differences and build on the common agreed objectives, we can push peace, economic progress, and cooperation forward." The question of whether Japanese destroyers should have accompanied U.S. warships in the Taiwan Strait was raised.

Both Mr. Lee and Mr. Nakasone were against the idea. The conference moderator, Mr. Kenichi Takemura, said that Mr. James Howe — a former Defense Department official and now a university professor — had said that not only Japan, but also other Asian countries, would have felt reassured if Japanese destroyers had flanked the USS Independence as it moved to the Taiwan Strait in the incident earlier this year.

Commenting on this, Mr. Lee said: "For Japan to take a high military profile on an issue which concerns China's internal unity, between Taiwan and the mainland, would be extremely unwise as it would revive Chinese memories of its shame and humiliation when it had to surrender Taiwan to the Japanese in 1895."

Mr. Nakasone said sending destroyers would be against Japan's defense philosophy of providing only logistical support and bases for U.S. military action.

Elaborating on Japan's role in Asia, he said that Japan should contribute to the prosperity of Asian countries but, at the same time, maintain close relations with the United States across the Pacific.

"Our eyes are looking at the globe and our hands and feet are in the region, Asia, and we must try to maintain the best harmony between the two," he said.

"We should not let a curtain be drawn against the Pacific. The Pacific as a whole and Asia as a whole must prosper."

Concluding his comments, Mr. Nakasone said that Japan had caused a lot of trouble to its Asian neighbors during World War II, and this should be a lesson for itself as well as for other countries.

The Japanese, he said, had become so successful and had built up so much military might that it led Japan into the war.

Asian countries should learn from Japan's lesson and not let success and prosperity make them arrogant, lest it lead to their downfall, he said.

Singapore: Survey Shows Firms Unsatisfied With PRC Investments

BK3105101096 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 25 May 96 p 48

[Report by China correspondent Tan Tarn How]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing — Singapore companies are on average less than "moderately satisfied" with their investments in China, a survey has found.

On a scale of one (for low satisfaction) to five (high satisfaction), they reported an average value of 2.84 when asked how satisfied they were with the overall performance of their investments, the study by National University of Singapore business administration lecturer Wang Pien showed.

They also reported average satisfaction with profitability (2.52 rating) and growth (2.91), she and her student assistants Sharon Ng and Koh Pek Hiong found. A rating of three indicates moderate satisfaction.

Dr Wang, who is in Beijing to present her findings at a seminar, said: "It may be that many companies were too optimistic when they started."

The survey, conducted recently, did not ask firms whether they were profitable or incurring losses, but only whether they were satisfied with their level of profitability.

Questionnaires were sent out to 920 companies, of which 167 responded. The respondents included large, small and medium-sized companies with Chinese investments. They are wholly owned, joint ventures or cooperative ventures.

The survey showed that companies listed excessive optimism about making money, rate of return on investment and market potential as their main mistakes. They also believed too easily what the Chinese said and promised as well as underestimated the financial needs of the investments.

The companies also listed red tape as the major obstacle they faced, followed by constant changes in investment rules and regulations.

The incomplete legal system and difficulty in obtaining reliable data for investment analysis were cited as well.

Asked why they invested in China, the most important reason given was the potential of the market, followed by rising costs and limited investment opportunities in Singapore.

Calls by Singapore leaders to invest in China was the least important factor (in 10th place), while China's cultural and language proximity to Singapore took seventh place.

Though the market was the biggest draw, Dr Wang found that companies which export their products from the mainland rather than rely on domestic sales were the most satisfied with their profitability.

In their assessment of employees, the companies rated highly the willingness to work hard and to receive training, as well as relationships among workers and the ability to follow instructions.

Employees' sense of responsibility and initiative were rated the lowest, Dr Wang said, though recent graduates made good workers, perhaps better than Singaporeans.

Singapore: Kazakhstani President Stresses Investment Opportunities

BK3105111396 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 31 May 96 p 60

[Report by Grace Sung]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev yesterday urged Singapore companies to do business in his country and said his government planned to continue creating incentives for foreign investors.

He made the appeal for investments in a speech at a lunch hosted by the Agio Group of Companies, saying: "We need your investments, which will allow Kazakhstan to make a great step forward and come closer to the environment Singaporeans currently live in."

He added that the government was ready to improve the investment climate and assured that benefits would be reaped.

He was on a two-day official visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

Mr. Nazarbayev noted that his government had already reviewed tax codes and land laws to facilitate the flow of foreign investment into the Central Asian country.

In the four years since its independence, economic reforms had been implemented to such an extent that the private sector now amounts to 60 per cent of the economy.

He stressed that the restructuring would continue.

He urged foreigners to invest, in particular, in infrastructure by constructing highways, hotels, homes, airports and building up the telecommunications sector.

The government was prepared to offer tax benefits for these projects.

The Kazakhstan Government would continue with privatization and is even considering management contracts for commercial banks and some industries.

Even companies dealing with defense facilities might be privatized.

He pointed out that his country had immense natural resources — mineral deposits, gas and between 15-40 billion tons of crude oil reserves.

A lot of the resources had not even been discovered.

Other sectors foreigners could look at included food manufacturing and packaging, and the chemical industry.

He said that in his talks with Mr. Lee Kuan Yew on Wednesday, the Senior Minister had "made a realistic assessment of the situation in Kazakhstan, but he also knows the great prospects there are".

Mr. Nazarbayev added: "Investment from this part of the world is practically absent. You should be concerned because you are going to miss out on a large piece of the pie.

"The risks are still high, but the returns and the profits are commensurate with the risks."

Earlier, at a business seminar, the executive director of the Singapore Confederation of Industries, Mr. Chin Teck Huat said the areas of machinery light industry and agro-processing in Kazakhstan might interest local businessmen.

Singapore and Kazakhstan companies could team up to do business in China. Or Singaporeans could cooperate with the Chinese in Kazakhstan, which has a long border with China he added.

Mr. Nazarbayev, who is the first president of his country to visit Singapore, and Mr. Goh led delegation-level talks on Wednesday.

Yesterday, he called on President and Mrs. Ong Teng Cheong at the Istana [palace].

His wife visited the Botanic Gardens, where an orchid — Dendrobium Nursultan Nazarbayev "Sara" — was named after her.

They left for home yesterday afternoon.

Singapore: Agreement Reached With Thailand To Push ASEAN Expansion

BK0106144496 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 1 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thai and Singaporean prime ministers have agreed to push for the inclusion of Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar [Burma] into the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN.

Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha, who concluded his official visit to Singapore today, said he shared the same with his Singaporean counterpart Goh Chok Tong that the three potential ASEAN members should be invited to attend an ASEAN informal summit in Indonesia later this year. The Thai prime minister said he would visit Cambodia and Laos this month.

The Singaporean communications minister will pay a visit to Thailand in November to explore investment opportunities for the Eastern Development Seaboard Program.

Prime Minister Banhan said Singaporean Senior Minister Lee Kwan Yew urged ASEAN to consolidate to compete with China, which is predicted to span at the same level with the United States in term of economic development in the future. He said Singapore attached great importance to Thailand.

The Singaporean president, during his talks with the Thai prime minister, expressed his impression over the previous visit to that country by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon. The Singaporean president also expressed his best wishes to their majesties the king and queen on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of his majesty the king this year.

Singapore: Thai Prime Minister Views Problems of Overseas Workers

BK0106144696 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Jun 96 p A2

[Report by Rita Patiyasewi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Singapore — As Thailand tries to ease problems associated with its labour force abroad, sudden unexpected death syndrome, or "Lai Tai", continues to pose a challenge.

Since January, some 66 Thai workers have died in Singapore.

Thongsuk Chaikhanta, who arrived here two weeks ago, became yet another one to die unexpectedly in the island republic.

Friends said the 34-year-old worker from Chiang Rai dropped dead yesterday morning in front of the Golden Mile Complex while waiting to obtain an air ticket from the Phaya Tour company to return home.

Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha yesterday said Thailand would use a government-to-government approach to solve the problem of illegal Thai workers abroad.

As for legal workers, Banhan said Thailand would study the requirements for workers in specific countries and supply them accordingly. The approach would be studied by the Labour Ministry.

Banhan met with Thai ambassadors and councillors for labour posted in Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore to discuss the labour situation in various places.

"In the future, many countries will need unskilled labour. The demand now is for about one million, but in the next five years it will double. The demand in Thailand will also increase," he said.

Banhan said the Labour Ministry would study the possibility of the government operating overseas job placement centre as a way of solving some of the problems involved, including the excessive charges imposed on the workers. The Immigration Division would also be asked to be more strict.

More than 200,000 Thais work abroad and remit several billions of baht home each year. However, many of them enter their host countries illegally, and the government wants to help resolve this, Banhan said.

About 70 000 Thais are working legally and illegally in Malaysia, and more in Singapore.

Banhan told about 1,000 Thai workers who greeted him in Singapore that the government was concerned about them.

He said he told Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong to look after the Thai workers, adding that he realised they had a responsibility to obey the laws and regulations of the host country.

At another meeting, Banhan said that the recent stock market gains and General Motors Corp's decision to build a car plant in Thailand were votes of confidence in his cabinet reshuffle earlier this week.

"I expect that the economic and financial situation will improve, particularly as the reshuffle that I have made was in accordance with that called for by both the press and the people of Thailand," he said.

Asked at a news conference whether the reshuffle had made his government more stable, he said the change was "definitely for the better".

"Indeed, I think a vote of confidence has already been given by General Motors' decision to base their new production facility in Thailand" and by a rise of more than 20 points in the stock market, said Banhan speaking on the second day of a three-day visit.

General Motors said on Thursday it had chosen Thailand as the site for a US$750 million (Bt [baht] 18.75 billion) car assembly plant, despite generous incentives in a competing bid from the Philippines.

That was two days after Banhan reshuffled the Cabinet and named Bodi Chunnanon as new finance minister.

— ASEAN is to spearhead the establishment of a fund to develop the resource-rich Mekong region, Foreign Minister Amnuai Wirawan said yesterday.

Amnuai accompanying Banhan on his official visit to Singapore, told the Television Corporation of Singapore the proposed fund would be discussed at an ASEAN ministerial meeting in Malaysia this month.

Singapore: More on Prime Minister's Talks With Thai Counterpart

BK3105110896 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 31 May 96 p 1

[Report by Lee Stew Hua]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Singapore and Thailand agreed yesterday that their buoyant private sectors should pursue new business opportunities in each other's country — and also move on to invest jointly in the emerging Mekong region.

Thai Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha, who arrived yesterday for a three-day official trip, and his Singapore counterpart, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, expressed similar views on economic and regional affairs. Both are known to enjoy warm ties forged at recent ASEAN meetings.

Mr. Goh said at a banquet last night: "With both our economies doing well, there are increasing opportunities for Singapore businessmen to expand their investments in Thailand and for Thai businessmen to do likewise in Singapore."

Urging teamwork in the resource-rich but still-virgin Mekong region, he added: "There is also tremendous scope for cooperation in the Mekong Basin Development Project. Our private sectors can combine their resources and relative strengths to achieve more than if they go on their own. Thailand and Singapore can play a catalytic role with other like-minded countries to accelerate the economic growth of the Mekong region."

The Thai leader, who flew into the Republic in a private Airbus 310-301 and was given a ceremonial welcome in brilliant sunshine at Changi Airport, said in his dinner speech:

"It is my hope that the Thailand-Singapore Business Council will develop into an important mechanism which our private sectors can use to pursue together new business opportunities."

Noting that Thai and Singaporean cooperation included the private sector, he added that this would help coordinate "our multi-faceted economic relations, which are based on the outward-looking economic policies of both our countries, be it Thailand's export-oriented economic policy or Singapore's regionalisation policy."

Mr. Banhan, whose trip has an economic focus, said the challenge ahead was to push joint development of the Mekong basin and the trans-Asia railway. These were among the web of initiatives launched at the ASEAN Summit and Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

Both Prime Ministers also dwelt on their broad-based ties. They highlighted their close economic partnership, common membership in APEC and ASEAN, and defense links.

Said Mr. Goh: "These defense interactions result from the similarities in the strategic thinking and outlook of Thailand and Singapore."

While Mr. Banhan likened the two countries to "two intimate friends", Mr. Goh said this visit would strengthen their "bridge of trust".

Yesterday, Mr. Banhan also made a courtesy call on President Ong Teng Cheong at the Istana [palace], and had separate talks with Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew and Mr. Goh.

Both Prime Ministers, joined later by their delegations, also mapped out newer, broader economic ties. Mr. Kobsak Chutikun the Thai Foreign Ministry's Director-General of Economic Affairs, told THE STRAITS TIMES that Singapore was asked to invest in the Thai Eastern Seaboard.

Trade and Industry Minister Yeo Cheow Tong will visit this heavy industrial zone soon, he said adding: "The seaboard will be an outlet for Indochina, and also an entry point." The seaboard, 120 km from Bangkok will have an international airport, port, and export-processing facilities.

The two sides also called a "new impetus" for the Thailand- Singapore Business Council, which had not been very active since its launch in November 1994, he said.

In a reflection of their close rapport, Mr. Goh said: "We sleep in different beds, but have the same dreams."

The two leaders also traded many jokes, according to Mr. Kobsak. Mr. Banhan called Mr. Goh the father of ASEM. Replying, he quipped that Mr. Banhan, who hosted the inaugural ASEM in March, was also a father, and added: "We have to show responsibility in bringing up our child properly."

They agreed to visit each other often and unofficially — as in the case of Mr. Goh and Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed.

Mr. Banhan is accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Jamsai Sinlapa-acha, and their politician daughter Kanchana. Also part of his 82-member delegation are Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Amnuai Wirawan, Labor and Social Welfare Minister Prasong Bunphong, high-ranking officials, and business leaders.

Singapore: EDB Director Affirms Equal Treatment of Investors

BK0306025996 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 31 May 96 p 2

[Report by Genevieve Chua]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Economic Development Board [EDB] managing director Lim Swee Say yesterday said the statutory board has never favoured any investor above another, whether the company is a multinational, local or government-linked entity.

Speaking to reporters yesterday. Mr. Lim said a company's ownership has never been an issue, as EDB's focus is on the benefits of an investment to Singapore, such as employment or the development of a key capability.

Any unfair treatment or focus on ownership would undermine the partnerships built up over the years with leading corporations like Seagate and IBM, he said.

Mr. Lim was addressing concerns expressed in the disk drive industry arising out of Singapore Technologies' [ST] buyout of disk drive maker Micropolis. Key players were worried that with Singapore Technologies' managing director Ho Ching also on EDB's board, the confidentiality of investment plans disclosed to EDB may be compromised. Mr. Lim said: "It would be foolish of us to give favorable treatment to any one company, ST/Micropolis included, at the expense of the entire disk drive sector... We'd like to give this full assurance to all that there will not be any unfair treatment given to any investor in Singapore."

He said the EDB has had private sector representatives on its board for many years, to give it a broader perspective in the formulation of strategies. He said Conner Peripherals' Chan Hua Bee was a board member between 1991-92 and the confidentiality of disk drive companies was not compromised by his presence at board meetings.

He reiterated EDB's stand that Singapore Technologies' acquisition of Micropolis was a commercial decision. "Our reaction to the acquisition of Micropolis is the same as that of the acquisition of Conner by Seagate... We are interested in the impact on industry and the effect on our strategic objective. Will the acquisition lead to more investment into Singapore, or the downsizing of operations?"

Nurturing good ties with corporations will be vital to Singapore's future, he said, as the country will need to attract $40 billion [Singapore dollars] in fixed asset investments in manufacturing in the next five years. This is in order to sustain a manufacturing growth of over 7 percent a year. Based on current trends, 70 percent of the investment is expected to come from MNCs [multinational corporations], and 70 percent is likely to comprise expansion by existing investors.

Cambodia

Cambodia: Government Pleads for Aid, Urges World To Ignore Rangsi

BK3105111596 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 30 May 96

["Political Commentary": "If It Is Tough With the Government, the People's Interests Will Be Damaged"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Consultative Group plans to hold a conference in Tokyo on 11-12 July to discuss aid to Cambodia. Chaired by Japan and the World Bank, it will determine the amount of aid to be pledged by the international community to the Kingdom of Cambodia for the coming years. For the next five years, the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] will need over $2 billion worth of investments and technology.

In this regard, His Excellency [H.E.] Keat Chhon, state minister and minister of economy and finance, left on 25 May for a working visit to a number of countries. Observers say the aim of the visit is to present a five-year public investment plan to the international community. Cambodia hopes that the international community in Tokyo this year would give it $900 million in aid.

However, it is most painful and humiliating that a crooked person is painstakingly conducting the same deceiving and distorting propaganda in foreign countries at the same time. This evil person says there are no rules and regulations in Cambodia and that the government is corrupt and anarchic and is violating human rights. He also called on donor countries and credit agencies to impose conditions on all kinds of aid to Cambodia.

Our people are not in the least surprised at this person, imbued with personal ambition. However, what is regrettable is that a small number of foreign figures, who are his close friends or who do not know yet the true nature of this most base person, believe without reasoning first what the devilish person has said. They have also demanded that their government consider the human rights issue in Cambodia.

We wish to recall what the UN Human Rights Office representative in Cambodia, (Daniel Premond), recently said: Is there any country in the world where human rights are not violated? This is why UN human rights offices are needed. The presence of this office in Cambodia does not mean that there are serious human rights violations here and that human rights violators will be arrested. Rather, the office aims to educate and teach the people in the country to understand more about human rights. If the people understand, then rights abuses might be reduced gradually. This is the aim of the United Nations.

For liberal democratic countries, human rights are the foundation of democracy. However, this does not mean that a few violations in a country will result in a total loss of democracy. Reducing violations result in an increase in respect for human rights. The more important human rights are, the more significant democracy is. The development of respect for human rights is the development of democracy and vice versa.

For the Cambodian people, democracy means food, health, education, shelter, and the problem of hunger. Since our people have already experienced a lot of suffering and misery, their attitude, basic values, and will to live have changed completely. Their understanding of necessity and aim has also been lost.

Only after the poor have enough food, shelter, education, and material wealth can democracy be ardently supported and upheld in society. Democratic-minded people should understand that they will not be able to speak out publicly without fear if democracy or respect for human rights do not exist in our country.

An assessment of the human rights situation in Cambodia is most correct. However, whatever potential Cambodia has, it is not possible to make it prosperous and strong in all areas like the West, which has had democracy and the foundation of human rights for several hundred years already.

Everyone knows that Cambodia has experienced war for more than two decades, in particular the genocidal regime that was unprecedented in history of mankind. Therefore, the priorities are rehabilitation and redevelopment of the country, and the strengthening of knowledge and order to ensure the survival of the people.

Last year, in assessing the situation in Cambodia, Winston Lord, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, said: Democracy, which has grown in Cambodia, is developing. The assistant secretary of state also realized that the RGC had started the process of building politics and the economy in conformity with the pressing needs of the country.

At present, the fact that the Kingdom of Cambodia has opened its doors wider than ever before to the outside world shows that the human rights and democracy situation in the kingdom has improved. This is the foundation of national development and also a satisfactory outcome for the entire people.

Nonetheless, the gains have become terribly bitter for some individuals who are against the RGC and opposed to the country's progress. What is most painful for them is to see the people and the RGC joining hands to rehabilitate and redevelop the country. At all times, they strive, with all possible means to smear, to lower, and cheapen the prestige of the RGC as much as they can. If they cannot achieve anything in the country, they will travel abroad and mobilize a small band of their friends and cronies to turn white into black. However, this is not an unusual phenomenon at all in a society that advocates democracy and respects human rights. That being the case, these people should not be too pessimistic and use this issue to divert the sympathy of the international community from Cambodia. If they are really fond of democracy and really want to promote respect for human rights, they should understand that preventing the international community from giving aid to Cambodia is tantamount to strangling the people. This also an encroachment against the sympathy that generous countries have toward Cambodia, the killing of the fledgling democracy in the country, and an abuse of the rights of the people, who are badly in need of investment to develop the country.

The current efforts of the RGC are not for its own gain but the supreme interests of the nation and the welfare of the people. Therefore, should the international community believe in the handful of people who have strayed from the nation, and become tough with the RGC, it is the Cambodian people's interests that will be affected in stead.

Cambodia: Ranariddh Returns From Beijing, Says King 'Healthy'

BK0106091096 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 1 Jun 96

[Speech by First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh at the the foundation stone laying ceremony for Wat Than Monastery in Phnom Penh on 1 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Availing myself of this good opportunity, I would like to convey the blessings of the Triple Jewels acquired from the construction of this main chapel to all of you, beloved grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts, and brothers and sisters. May you enjoy happiness, prosperity, and glory; receive what you desire; and be endowed with the five blessings of Lord Buddha.

On this occasion, I would also like to inform the clergy, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts that I returned from Beijing less than two hours ago. I went there to see His Majesty the King, our father and grandfather. I am very happy to inform you all that our revered and beloved king is healthy. He has recovered a lot from his illness. I managed to visit him three times, and it was a great pleasure for me to see His Majesty having recovered considerably, thanks to the treatment of Chinese doctors and to his own charisma. His Majesty is very charismatic. He fell sick right in China. Should he have fellen sick on a plane or in other places, there would have been a big problem. Anyway, the Chinese doctors know how to treat him for they have enough of his medical records. His Majesty really wants to return but he cannot. So, he has sent from his own pocket $2,000 as a contribution to the inauguration of the main chapel.

His Majesty also asked me to inform you, the two supreme patriarchs and all Buddhist followers, who are his children and grandchildren, that he misses you all and that he hopes to return to the motherland in the near future.

All in all, we hope 99 percent that Her Majesty the Queen will return to celebrate her 60th birthday. I cannot promise anything but I hope 99 percent that the queen will return to the Kingdom of Cambodia to mark her 60th birthday and to allow her children to join her in the celebration.

We should pray now that when the plane sent to pick up the queen arrives in Beijing, our revered and beloved father will feel better and will decide to come along. [applause] So, with that hope, all of us, who are His Majesty's children and grandchildren, wish to thank you and wish you all the best. Thank you very much for having come here in force today. Thank you.

Cambodia: Ranariddh: Sihanouk To Return Within 'Two or Three Weeks'

BK0206102696 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 2 Jun 96

[FBIS Summary] Today the radio carried a 45-minute recorded address by First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh to a meeting in Phnom Penh on the morning of 2 June to mark the anniversary of the international children's day.

In his speech Ranariddh conveys the latest news on the health of King Norodom Sihanouk, who is currently in Beijing. He says: "On 30 May, I had the great honor of being allowed to meet His Majesty the King, our father and grandfather, in Beijing. I would like to take this opportunity to pass on the news to you all that our revered king's health has improved. The king has asked me to convey this to everyone in the Kingdom of Cambodia. He said he will return to the motherland to see his children and grandchildren within the next two or three weeks."

Ranariddh then talks at length about what he and the Royal Government have been doing to ensure that the rights of the people, and of the children are respected and protected.

Ranariddh also talks about his willingness and readiness to give lectures to law students in Cambodia so that he cannot be accused of spending too much time teaching public law in France. He calls on the young to study hard, protect the nation's culture and traditions, and become good citizens.

Ranariddh tells the young that "the first key point our country needs is political and social stability" and that "a society is stable only when we can unite around the symbol of national unity represented for a long time by our revered king, by Buddhism, and by our entire nation. Political and social stability and peace are important factors for promoting our country's development."

Ranariddh finally thanks various UN bodies for their cooperation and assistance to Cambodian children.

Cambodia: Ranariddh, Hun Sen Meet in Public for 1st Time Since Mar

OW0106033696 Hong Kong AFP in English 0328 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Phnom Penh, June 1 (AFP) — Cambodia's bickering co-premiers, whose comments have put their nation on edge for the past three months, attempted a show of unity Saturday [1 June], appearing together in public for the first time since March.

First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh and second Prime Minister Hun Sen shook hands and hugged several times as they and cabinet officials, monks, nuns and security personnel waited for acting Head of State Chea Sim to arrive for the inauguration of a renovated Buddhist temple.

"Thanks to the Buddha and religion, the three Samdechs are all together for the first time (since March)," Prince Ranariddh said referring to the honorary titles held by himself, Hun Sen and Chea Sim.

Hun Sen and Chea Sim left the ceremony without making any comment but the prince was eager to demonstrate their togetherness.

"I think it is good for the country," he said. "Very, very good for the country. We have to show (unity) for the cause of national reconciliation."

The prince and Hun Sen have been leading their political parties — the main partners in the ruling coalition — in a war of words since the prince in March threatened to withdraw his royalist FUNCINPEC party from the government.

Hun Sen, leader of the formerly communist Cambodian People's Party (CPP), then said he would use military force to counter any attempt to dissolve the government which was brought to power in the historic UN-brokered election in 1993.

The ensuing tension that engulfed the country has sparked worldwide concern from donor nations and foreign investors worried that the war of words between the former battlefield enemies would escalate to renewed armed conflict.

A senior US official warned Friday in Washington that further backsliding away from pluralism could jeopardize American economic aid to Cambodia. "There's much to be concerned about in Cambodia," Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific Kent Wiedemann said, noting the division in the political leadership and adding "things look quite tenuous." The prince said the tension had eased in recent days and that there was none "at least from my side." He will be in solely in charge of the government beginning Saturday when Hun Sen leaves Cambodia for a medical check-up in Singapore.

Cambodia: Banned Khmer Nation Party Eludes Police; Opens New Offices

BK0206120096 Hong Kong AFP in English 1144 GMT 2 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIHANOUKVILLE, Cambodia, June 2 (AFP) — Cambodia's banned opposition Khmer Nation Party (KNP) on Sunday successfully opened two new offices near this southern city after playing cat and mouse with apparently confused local authorities for several hours.

The party also re-opened a nearby office, founded just two weeks ago, that police had raided and closed on Saturday.

Party president Sam Rangsi and about 40 supporters from the capital were met by heavily armed police when they arrived at Veal Meas village about 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of here and told they would not be allowed to open an office.

After unsuccessfully arguing that the police's orders to prevent the opening were not valid, the group sped off to the site of the second new office — a small Moslem community just south of Veal Meas.

The opening ceremony there was delayed while KNP secretary general Khieu Rada quietly left to re-open the party's office further south in Prey Nup village that had been closed by police on Saturday.

As he and several others nailed the party's sign back into place, the police appeared, telling the owners of the property that the sign must be torn down. The order was ignored and the group then left and instead of returning to the Moslem community — where a truckload of police was waiting — returned to the first site and opened the office there.

"We are confusing them," Sam Rangsi said. "They don't know where we are. It is like a game of cat and mouse, hide and seek."

The group then opened the office in the Moslem village and headed south but found the police in Prey Nup had again ripped their sign down.

"This is just childish," an obviously angry Sam Rangsi said as workers re-nailed the sign in place. "If we are doing something they think is illegal, then they should arrest us. If not, then they should leave us alone."

The KNP, which the government has refused to recognize as legal, has for months been defying a ministry of the interior order to close down.

The government has not taken any official action against the party, but KNP officials have accused the authorities of several incidents — including the closure of the Prey Nup office — that they say are "intimidation."

Barring further raids, the party has seven branch offices outside of Phnom Penh including the five in or near Sihanoukville and two in the southeastern province of Prey Veng.

One of the two offices in Prey Veng was attacked last week, the party said, but it had not been closed down.

Cambodia: 'Special Team' Formed To Ensure Security for Foreigners

BK3105154996 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Sar Kheng, deputy prime minister and co-interior minister; and H.E. Yu Hokkri, co-interior minister, met and held a working session at Chamka Mon state palace on the afternoon of 30 May with various members of the diplomatic corps and international organizations assigned to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The discussion focused on strengthening security and ensuring social order for the diplomatic corps, international organizations, and foreign companies carrying out activities and investing in Cambodia. Their excellencies the co-ministers briefed the guests on the present security situation and social order, the outcome of measures taken in the past, and the work targets for future implementation.

Brigadier General (Heng Tha), deputy office head and spokesman for the Interior Ministry, said that to facilitate contact and the exchange of information between the Ministry of Interior and the diplomatic corps and international organizations in Cambodia, the Ministry of Interior has decided to establish a special eight-member team to provide cooperation and resolve quickly any security problems affecting foreigners or our own people. The eight members are: Gen. Lui Savut, chief of the Central Directorate of the Judiciary Police; Gen. Mau Chandara, deputy chief of the Central Directorate of the Judiciary Police; Gen. (Thang Meas), chief of the Penal Department of the Interior Ministry; Gen. (Heng Tha), deputy office head and spokesman for the Interior Ministry; Gen. Meas Savoeun, commissioner of the Phnom Penh Police; Gen. Kieng Savut, chief of the National Police; Gen. (Cheam Sophal), chief of the Security Police; and Colonel (Yek Darasak), first deputy commissioner of the Phnom Penh Police.

The members of the diplomatic corps and international organizations in Cambodia welcomed the formation of this special team and praised the Ministry of Interior for its resolute efforts in the past and at present to crack down on wrongdoers and ensure security. They also promised to cooperate with the special team. Some embassies promised to provide materials and financial assistance.

Cambodia: Khmer Rouge Commentary Views U.S. Threat To Cut Aid

BK0306055096 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 2 Jun 96

[Unattributed commentary: "You Can Wait Until Horses Have Horns and Still the United States and the West Will Not Cut Aid to the Two Heads"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kent Wiedemann, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, recently said he was concerned about Cambodia's deteriorating situation. Many people in Phnom Penh have been heard talking about splits in the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and a power struggle over the upcoming general elections. If the situation remains unchanged, he will consider suspending aid to the two heads.

This is merely a farce. Communist Vietnam only wants to change its image, either by having their other puppets such as Chea Sim replace Hun Sen — so that the latter will not be too prominent as a very crass hooligan — or by making certain arrangements. Of all the communist Vietnamese pupets, only three need to be changed in Vietnamese eyes — Hun Sen, Chea Sim, and Sar Kheng — in order to mount a facade that remains essentially Vietnamese.

Why did Wiedemann threaten to cut aid? It would have been much more appropriate if he had said it was because the two heads were undemocratic, because there is a state of insecurity, or because of widespread corruption. Wiedemann's remarks, however, were only made to defend and maintain the communist Vietnamese puppet CPP so that Hun Sen could remain the strongman; continue his authoritarian, dictatorial, and fascist control; and carry on communist Vietnam's war of aggression. Maybe the other puppets have less credibility than Hun Sen. Wiedemann warned the CPP against internal disputes, using aid as his carrot and stick.

Anyway, this is just a farce and basically does not solve anything. The CPP is communist Vietnam. Hun Sen is communist Vietnam, and so are Chea Sim, Sar Kheng, and Tie Banh. Whether there is a replacement or not, they all remain Vietnamese. So what good can it do for the United States to talk about the Vietnamese inside the CPP? Whether aid should be cut or maintained has nothing to do with the Vietnamese.

The reasons for cutting aid should be the fact that communist Vietnam's CPP has destroyed FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], neutralized Sirivut, crushed the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, demolished the press, disbanded and wrecked Sam Rangsi's Khmer National Party, showed total disrespect for the king, wrecked newspapers, and smashed and dissolved the people's representatives after Meas Chanleap was murdered and the rest became lackeys of communist Vietnam and Hun Sen. These should be the reasons for cutting aid. According to the yardstick of Western-style democracy and the calculations of U.S. computers, these should be the reasons for cutting aid. Instead, the United States referred to the CPP's internal squabbles. What a deception! No one will accept it. People call the United States names because its mouth stinks. They are fakes! People believe that you can wait until horses have horns and still the United States will not cut aid to the two heads. After all, it created them to enable it to continue implementing its strategy of scrambling over Cambodia.

Communist Vietnam and the alliance share the same strategy of undermining human rights and self-determination. The alliance has ordered Vietnam to continue destroying FUNCINPEC and Son Sann's party and to harass the press and Sam Rangsi's party. Therefore, this is neither a matter of Western-style democracy nor that of the long-noses. The latter are no different from communist Vietnam. They have been kindred since the day the Paris Agreement was implemented. Nevertheless, no matter how savage and cruel the communist Vietnamese and the alliance are, all the national resistance forces will continue to join hands in the struggle to smash communist Vietnam, its puppets, and the villains who have been working in cahoots with communist Vietnam against Cambodia until they all collapse.

Indonesia

Indonesia: Bimantara Group Given Permit To Produce National Cars

BK3105101196 Jakarta MEDIA INDONESIA in Indonesian 31 May 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta (MEDIA) — The Industry and Trade Department yesterday issued a permit on the brand and type of new national cars to be produced by the Bimantara Group. Having obtained the permit, Bimantara is poised to launch its 1,500-cc Bimantara Cakra and 1,600-cc Bimantara Nenggala by July 1996.

"With or without government subsidies, Bimantara is ready to market its national cars," said Bimantara president director Bambang Trihatmojo [President Suharto's second son] to reporters after a meeting of Bimantara Citra Co. Ltd. shareholders in Jakarta yesterday.

Bambang said if Bimantara is given similar facilities accorded to Putra Timor Nasional Co. Ltd. of the Humpuss Group [owned by President Suharto's third son Hutomo Mandala Putra], Bimantara will be able to sell the Cakra and Nenggala at below 33 million rupiah. "Without the facilities, consumers will have to pay import duties. Right now, we are still asking the government to consider giving such facilities to Bimantara," he said.

Bambang said Bimantara is still trying to convince the government of this, but when asked if he was optimistic, he simply smiled. "I believe the government should give such facilities to two companies that want to produce national cars," he said.

Meanwhile, Jongki D. Sugiarto, president director of the Bimantara Cakra Nusa Co. Ltd., said the company will produce national cars as specified by the government. "It is not important for us whether our products will be recognized as national cars. The most important thing is that we are ready to start producing the cars," he said.

To produce both manual and automatic transmission models, Bimantara has invited supporting industries from South Korea to take part. Jongki said 12 South Korean companies have expressed their readiness to join the program.

Meanwhile, Indomobil Group Managing Director Angky Camaro said his group is also ready to produce national cars. "We are ready to start working as soon as we get the permit because Indomobil already has a license to produce the Suzuki Futura," he said.

Sanyoto Sastrowardoyo, state minister for investment, concurrently chairman of the Coordinating Agency for

Capital Investment, said the government will not apply the national car policy to other business sectors. "Investors should not worry about it because the government has given its assurance," he said.

Speaking to reporters after he installed first- and second-echelon officials yesterday, Sanyoto said Japanese businessmen are still interested in investing in Indonesia even after Presidential Decree no. 2/1996 on the national car program has been issued. "As of 15 May 1996, investments by 80 Japanese companies worth U.S.$4.8 billion had been approved. The figure is far higher than the corresponding period last year, which stood at U.S.$3 billion. This means that Japanese investors still favor the investment climate in Indonesia," Sanyoto said.

Indonesia: Australia-Bound Chinese Boat People Dock in Sumatra

LD3005150296 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1200 GMT 30 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] More Chinese boat people are on their way to Australia. A group of 86 [as heard] Chinese are now refuelling their vessel on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, from where they intend to sail to Australia to seek refugee status. Michael Maher [reports from Jakarta]:

[Maher] This latest boatload of Chinese is the third to dock in an Indonesian port during the past month. Carrying 34 men, 26 women, and 21 children, the wooden vessel is reported to have left the Chinese province of Guangxi two weeks ago and became stranded off the coast of south Sumatra. Indonesian officials say they have quarantined the boat and those on board have been given food and water while their status is being examined. [passage omitted]

Indonesia: Editorial Views Birth of New Political Party

BK0306063996 Jakarta MEDIA INDONESIA in Indonesian 31 May 96

[Editorial: "What is the New Party for?" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sri Bintang Pamungkas was unaffected by his expulsion from the House of Representatives and a jail term handed down by a court. The lecturer of the Technical Faculty of the University of Indonesia has filed suit against the minister of home affairs in the High State Administrative Court, appealed the jail term, and even continues to conduct political activities. He and a number of "pro-democracy" activists established the Indonesian United Democratic Party [PUDI] two days ago at the office of the Legal Aid Board in Jakarta.

Sri Bintang said openly that the party would be in opposition to the Functional Group [Golkar]. Accordingly, he urged two sociopolitical organizations, the United Development Party [PPP] and the Indonesian Democratic Party [PDI], to form a coalition against the ruling party.

There have been mixed reactions to the PUDI's birth. The minority considers its birth legal because its existence is possible under the 1945 Constitution. Nevertheless, a majority regards the political party as unconstitutional because only the PPP, the PDI, and the Golkar are recognized under the law on political parties and the Golkar and the People's Consultative Assembly decree on general elections.

Based on these, ministers and high-ranking officials declared at a coordinating meeting on politics and security that the PUDI was unconstitutional one day after the new party was born. Lieutenant General Suyono, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI], used even stronger language. He said the ABRI would confront the PUDI.

Indeed, the government's strong reaction to the PUDI's birth in contrast to its silence when a number of "pro-democracy" activists established the Democratic People's Party [PRD] some time ago. There seemed nothing to worry about. The PRD finally disappeared due to the absence of any serious reaction to it.

We can understand why there has been a serious reaction to the PUDI. This reaction can be attributed to the fact that its birth came relatively close to the general election as well as to the personal character of Sri Bintang himself. Nevertheless, Sri Bintang remains "attractive" to young people, particularly college students.

Based on the law, there is indeed no room for any political parties other than the three existing sociopolitical organizations. The new order government will certainly retain the current system. For the new order government, the three sociopolitical organizations resulted from political reform. The existence of many parties under the old order government seriously hindered development. The emergence of the three sociopolitical organizations was considered the best choice. There was a national consensus at that time because no party rejected the idea of "simplification of parties."

In a book entitled "Suharto: My Thoughts, Words, and Deeds," President Suharto said: "Why were there too many vehicles, nine vehicles, given that we already had the axis (Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution)? Why did we race and collide with one another? There could have been incidents if we had not been careful and had collided with one another. Our roads would have been disrupted or even deadlocked if there had been accidents. We would not even have been able to walk at all." Several days ago, Mr. Suharto reiterated that "new political parties are not necessary."

Regardless of the fact that many people are dissatisfied with the three existing sociopolitical organizations—dissatisfaction being one of the reasons for the establishment of the PUDI—we must admit objectively that development programs can be realized more easily with the existence of only the three sociopolitical organizations.

If the PUDI has been established to accommodate the aspirations not addressed by the three sociopolitical organizations, our question is: Will the PUDI guarantee that all aspirations will be accommodated? Nevertheless, the PUDI's birth should remind the three sociopolitical organizations to use self-introspection. Have they become a vehicle to accommodate the people's aspirations?

Laos

Laos: Japan Grants Aid for Refurbishment of Vientiane Airport

BK3005124296 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 30 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane, May 30 (KPL) — The Government of Japan has allocated 2,771 billion yen (approximately U.S.$26 million) for the refurbishment of the international Vientiane airport.

Signing of the document to this effect on May 28 were Deputy Foreign Minister Phongsavat Boupha and Japanese Ambassador Hiroomi Sakai.

To be rehabilitated is the construction of the new international passengers lounge. The fund is also to be used in purchasing necessary equipment for the airport facilities.

The international airport rehabilitation project is divided into three phases. The current phase, receiving a grant of 1,693 billion yen from the Government of Japan, started in 1995.

In addition to this aid, the Japanese government has so far granted 4,464 billion yen, approximately U.S.$42 million, to the rehabilitation of the Wattay International Airport.

Laos: President Receives Burmese Military Delegation

BK0106130896 Vientiane KPL in English 0857 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane, May 31 (KPL) — President of the Republic Nouhak Phoumsavan yesterday received at the Presidential Palace, Hokham, a high-ranking military delegation of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] headed by Lieutenant General Min Thein, minister to the Presidential Office of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

The president welcomed the delegation and hoped that the visit will contribute to the state of mutual understanding and strengthen the friendly ties and cooperation between the two nations.

The president highly valued the relations that both countries have so far enjoyed. He highly assessed the Lao-Myanmar cooperation in many fields. In this connection, the Lao president said, the relation between the two armies has always been good, thus stabilising the state of security along the common border.

The president also praised the policy of national concord and socio-economic development of the government of Myanmar.

The head of Myanmar delegation expressed his satisfaction over the visit to Laos which, he believed, would help materialise the fruits of the talks between the two nations' heads of states.

The Myanmar delegation was accompanied by Defence Minister Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-gnason.

Laos: Burmese Military Delegation Ends Visit, Departs

BK3105090596 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A high-level military delegation of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] headed by His Excellency [H.E.] Lieutenant General [Lt. Gen.] Min Thein, minister attached to the Office of Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], left Vientiane for home on the afternoon of 30 May after ending an official friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

A ceremony to bid farewell to the delegation was held at Latsavong Hotel. The ceremony was attended by H.E. Lt. Gen. Choummali Sai-gnason, minister of national defense, along with high- ranking officers attached to the National Defense Ministry. H.E. U Thein Han, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the LPDR, was also present.

During the visit that took place from 25 to 30 May 1996, the military delegation of the Union of Myanmar paid a courtesy call on H.E. Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the LPDR. In the meeting, H.E. President Nouhak Phoumsavan welcomed and assessed highly the visit of the delegation. The visit, he noted, has brought about the further strengthening of the solidarity, good relations, and cooperation between the two countries as well as the two peoples of Laos and Myanmar. H.E. the president also conveyed, through the delegation, greetings and best wishes to H.E. General Than Shwe, chairman of the SLORC.

On this occasion, H.E. Lt. Gen. Min Thein expressed thanks to H.E. Nouhak Phoumsavan for the warm welcome that was accorded to him and his delegation.

While in Laos, the high-level military delegation of the Union of Myanmar also held talks with a high-level military delegation of Laos on the relations and cooperation between the armies of Laos and Myanmar for the immediate future. Recently, the Myanmar Army has helped the Lao Army build and train technical cadres of certain branches, such as agriculture and foreign language. In addition to visiting military units, the Myanmar delegation viewed economic and cultural establishments in Vientiane municipality, Luang Prabang, and Xieng Khouang provinces. The delegation was warmly welcomed by leaders of all the municipality and provinces it visited.

Laos: Foreign Minister Comments on Malaysian Ties

*BK0306051396 Bangkok THE NATION in English
3 Jun 96 p A3*

[Report by Kunlachada Chaiphiphat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok — Laos and Malaysia will today inaugurate a ministerial meeting of the Lao-Malaysian Joint Commission in Kuala Lumpur to strengthen ties, a major step forward since their agreement to normalise relations in 1992.

The two-day meeting will among other things discuss the establishment of an air link between Vientiane and Kuala Lumpur and a new Association of Southeast Asian Nations initiative to have joint development in the Mekong sub-region, Lao Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat said while in transit at Bangkok airport yesterday.

Somsavat, who heads a 12-member delegation, said bilateral trade and investment cooperation have gradually increased since the two country's prime ministers, Khamtai Siphandon of Laos and Mahathir Mohamad, exchanged visits in 1992.

Laos and Malaysia established diplomatic relations at the end of the 1960s, but they cooled after the communist victory in Laos in 1975. Following the signing of the Paris peace accord in 1991, Vientiane appointed an ambassador to Malaysia.

Malaysia is the sixth biggest foreign investor in Laos, its areas of interest primarily being mining, forestry and agriculture. Malaysia has provided technical and personnel training since 1992 in forestry, tourism and English.

Somsavat said Malaysia Air Systems will launch an air service from Kuala Lumpur to Vientiane via Phnom Penh next month. Malaysian investors are also keen to invest in a hydro-electric power project in southern Laos.

Somsavat said Laos welcomes the Malaysia-driven ASEAN Mekong Basin Development in the expectation that economic growth there will match that of other ASEAN countries.

He believes the project will accelerate the pace of development, in particular infrastructure, faster than existing cooperative frameworks in the region because it has drawn more attention throughout the region.

An informed source said Lao and Malaysian officials will also discuss Malaysia's plan to transport goods to Laos via Thailand.

Somsavat and his Malaysian counterpart, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, met in Brunei last July. The goods transportation issue has been raised with Thailand, but it has yet to be agreed upon, pending consideration by the Transportation and Finance ministries of road conditions and tax regulations.

Somsavat's trip to Malaysia is seen as an intensification of Laos' efforts to join ASEAN next year. He last month visited the Philippines and will travel to Indonesia in July for the 29th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Somsavat said Laos plans to open diplomatic missions in the Philippines and Singapore early next year.

Philippines

Philippines: Ramos Urges People-Oriented Changes in Asia-Pacific

*BK0306062596 Quezon City Radio Filipinas
in English 0230 GMT 3 Jun 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Ramos has called on the Asia-Pacific countries to work together to make the changes in the region more meaningful and productive for our people. In the same perception—their talents, their labor and, above all, their dreams that will build the future of our region—it is only because of them that our region will be able to play a leading role in the emerging world of tomorrow. The chief executive said in a speech read for him by the Philippine ambassador to Japan, Alfonso Yuchengco, during the symposium entitled: "Message from Asia, New Asian Vision and Prospects" held at the Oita Prefecture in Japan last Thursday, 30 May 1996.

The president said the Asia-Pacific countries must continue to adapt to the opportunities opened by shifting comparative advantages to embark upon new product lines and to acquire ever-higher levels of technological capability.

A great deal of this expansion, the president said, has been due to progressive trade and investment liberalization and facilitation pursued nationally, regionally, and globally. The president said liberalization must be carried (?furthermore) to sustain higher levels of regional economic activity through domestic legislation, through ASEAN or Association of Southeast Asian Nations Free Trade Area, and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, and through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade-World Trade Organization system. The president said our countries benefit from one key, though unwritten, covenant that has kept East Asia stable for the past 25 years. This covenant is that we maintain the peace and harmony we all need in the region in order to continue the pursuit of economic growth and prosperity at home, the president said.

The president also cited the establishment of the new mode of regional security consultation, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum, which he said is designed to enhance regional security by resorting to transparent and cooperative principles and activities that will set aside the confrontational and aggressive instruments of cold war.

The president also underscored the need to develop more efforts towards making our regional political and security cooperation approximate the depths of our regional economic ties. The president also stressed there is a problem on labor migration, pollution and environmental degradation, energy and infrastructure shortage, and the growing incidence of international crime must be all dealt with.

In the long run, the president said our prosperity will be shaped equally by our blooming regional economies and by our conscious effort to evolve a more tangible sense of Asia-Pacific community, a community constructed on many different community levels down to our smallest towns and villages.

Philippines: PRC's Territorial Expansion Concerns Army Forces Chief

BK3105050796 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 31 May 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] Chief General Arturo Enrile said the military is unhappy about China's desire to expand its territory. However, he said that the military is powerless to interfere in the issue since it could only be resolved through diplomatic means. "China is not physically expanding but (their recent declaration) was in regard to their claims in the Spratly Islands," he said. [sentence as received] He added it will be up to President Ramos to plan the course of action the government and the military will take. "For now we will just observe their actions. We will not be sending additional troops to the disputed islands," Mr. Enrile said.

Philippines: Agreement Reached With Malaysia To Boost Cooperation

BK0106144996 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 1 Jun 96

[BERNAMA report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manila — Malaysia and the Philippines yesterday agreed to embark on new ventures to broaden the scope of their bilateral co-operation.

The agreement followed the third Malaysia-Philippines Joint Commission meeting here, attended by senior diplomatic officials of the two ASEAN neighbours.

The Malaysian delegation was led by Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, and the Philippine side by Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon Jr.

In a joint press statement, the commission said the two countries agreed to enhance co-operation in plantation, processing, marketing and joint ventures in timber products.

They also agreed to encourage better exchange of information and contacts between businessmen, and two-way trade and investment missions in timber and agro-industries.

Both sides would also jointly promote tourism projects, including those within the East ASEAN Growth Area.

Malaysia called for bilateral projects in arts and culture such as exchange of experts and information in theatre management, choreography and script writing.

Other areas Malaysia and the Philippines would pursue include co-operation in agriculture research, agribusiness, fisheries and livestock development, the statement said.

Highlighting the joint commission meeting was the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) establishing the Philippines-Malaysia Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area.

Philippines: Former Speaker Doubts Ramos' Vow To Step Down in 1998

BK3105023196 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 30 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Former Speaker Ramon Mitra has stressed to newsmen that the people should not believe President Ramos' promise that he will step down in 1998. According to Mitra, Ramos is currently enjoying his post, adding that Ramos's promise to step down is not easy to believe, because he has many people working to amend the Constitution.

Philippines: Laban Party Ends Coalition With Ruling Lakas Party

BK3105103096 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0945 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of the Filipino Democrats] has officially severed its coalition ties with the ruling Lakas-NUCD [Strength of the Nation-National Union of Christian Democrats]. This was announced during the Sixth National Convention of the Laban Party today. Senate Minority Leader Edgardo Angara maintains his leadership of the party. Foremost among those expressing confidence in his leadership was Congressman Jose Cojuangco.

Malacanang [presidential palace] expressed confidence that the two parties will remain friends despite the split.

Philippines: Speaker Confident Despite Coalition Pullout

BK0306073796 Manila PNA in English
1408 GMT 1 Jun 96

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manila, June 1 (PNA) — House Speaker Jose de Venecia today declared President Ramos and the ruling Lakas-NUCD [Power of the Nation-National Union of Christian Democrats] party will maintain its multi-party coalition with the two oldest Philippine political parties, the Liberal and Nacionalista [Nationalist] parties and with the PDP-Laban [Philippine Democratic Party-Nation's Strength] and Social Democrats, representing the democratic left in the face of the Laban [Struggle of Filipino Democrats] pullout from the Lakas national coalition.

The administration party will also keep its broad-based regional coalition in Muslim Mindanao with the Umpia party under Gov. Norodin Matalam, the regional parties in the Bicol region and the Visayas including the worker groups, de Venecia, Lakas secretary general pointed out.

Speaker de Venecia said he has been informed the majority of Laban members and Laban congressman will continue to support President Ramos' economic and social reform agenda insuring that the administrative-legislative program will not be delayed or derailed.

De Venecia, architect and founder of the steady Rainbow Coalition in the House of Representatives, said he will consult shortly with Deputy Speaker Hernani Perez and Rep. Jose Cojuangco on the future course of Lakas-Laban ties in the House.

The Rainbow Coalition and President Ramos's creative partnership with Congress have been mentioned by international economist and observers as responsible for the political and economic stability in the Philippines.

Deputy Speaker Simeon Datumanong said the Lakas coalition, instructed by President Ramos and Speaker de Venecia, have been responsible for the high rates of Philippine economic growth and the unprecedented rise in Filipino per capita income, in excess of $1,000.

The coalitions were achieved through consensus democratic politics and not through authoritarian rule, Speaker de Venecia said.

De Venecia and Datumanong said the Liberal Party under Deputy Speaker Raul Daza and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile; the Nacionalista Party, under former Vice President Salvador Laurel and Rep. Raul Gonzales, secretary; and the PDP-Laban, under former Senator Nene Pimentel, and the Social Democrats under Roberto Gonzales, are keeping the coalition with the Lakas-NUCD-UMDP [United Muslim Democrats of the Philippines].

Majority Leader Rodolfo Albano of Isabela said there is no danger on the non-passage of all the important measures that will benefit the masses of the people because the ruling Lakas-NUCD-UMDP "is still intact and has numerical strength" to pass all these vital legislations.

"We regret that the Laban has shied away from its responsibility to continue with the economic gains that the country has achieved during the duration of the Compact for Change signed between the two parties," Albano said.

Albano, however, is still confident that the Laban, for the love of country, will continue to support President Ramos' economic and social structural reform agenda designed to lift the people from poverty.

Philippines: Military To Integrate New Counterterrorist Group

BK3105061696 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 31 May 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The military is set to integrate two special branches of the Philippine Army this Monday in a move expected to boost the strike capability of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP].

AFP Chief General Arturo Enrile yesterday said the Special Forces Regiment and the Scout Rangers Regiment will be integrated as part of the army modernization program. The two units will also be complemented by members of the military who are engaged in psychological operations. Under the program, the two units will be combined to form a single unit capable of staging counter-terrorist action and small unit deployment. The new unit, to be called the Special Operations Command, will combine the knowledge of the Scout Rangers in jungle warfare and the expertise of the Special Forces in urban guerrilla warfare and close quarters combat. Lieutenant Colonel Leopoldo Maligalig, public information officer of the AFP, said the new unit will eventually be provided with state-of-the-art weaponry and transport vehicles.

Thailand

Thailand: New Foreign Minister Urged 'To Elevate' Policy on Burma

BK3105032196 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 May 96 p 7

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Academics yesterday urged newly-appointed Foreign Minister Amnuai Wirawan to elevate Thailand's constructive engagement policy on Burma above mere economic interests.

They also called on Thailand and the Philippines to take the lead in convincing other ASEAN members to follow suit.

The issue was discussed at a seminar called "Democratic Development in Burma after the arrests of NLD [National League of Democracy] representatives."

Social critic Sulak Siwarak said Mr. Amnuai should use the opportunity of his new appointment to change Thailand's policy on Burma.

"Mr. Amnuai is a good person with good intentions. I am looking forward to seeing him talking with Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha and the Phalang Tham Party, which claims to have virtue and morality, to change the foreign policy (towards Burma)."

Mr. Sulak praised the Government for deciding to send a Rangoon-based diplomat to observe the conference of the National League for Democracy (NLD) earlier this week.

"It is a good sign for the Government and it shows Thailand's bravery," he added.

The NLD meeting ended on Tuesday with a plan to draft a rival constitution to the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council's (SLORC) draft charter.

Both countries should work closely to persuade other ASEAN countries to push the democratic cause in Burma, he said.

The Philippines was the only other ASEAN member to join Thailand in calling for national reconciliation in Burma during escalating tensions this week.

"ASEAN should set conditions on Burma for joining the organisation," Mr. Sulak said. "If ASEAN is the democratic organisation, it should not allow the dictatorship state to participate."

But advisor to the Chat Phatthana Party Kraisak Chunhawan said it was unlikely Thailand would make any changes to its policy given the fact Bangkok does not discourage labour exploitation.

"Thailand is enjoying cheap labour from more than 400,000 Burmese workers and I expected they will rise to be more than 600,000 this year."

Thailand: Banhan Reviews Success of Malaysia, Singapore Visits

BK0206101596 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 2 Jun 96 p A2

[Report by Rita Pattiyasewi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha yesterday said his official trip to Malaysia and Singapore had resulted in minor breakthroughs to augment existing bilateral relations.

The prime minister said that certain border problems and economic cooperation had been resolved to an extent that would benefit Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries.

Banhan said his meetings with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed and subsequently with Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong were more than satisfactory.

"We (Thailand and Malaysia) have been able to resolve the 15-year conflict on the positions of three boundary pillars in the southern provinces and the dispute over a piece of land in Padangmesa Market where the Hok Teck Shrine stands," he said.

Mahathir agreed to his proposal to end the boundary disputes by having both countries accept the existing positions of the controversial boundary pillars.

Thailand and Malaysia have erected 70 boundary pillars across the 647-kilometre border as a result of the 1909 Siamese-Great Britain Treaty. However, the positions of Boundary Pillar 1 in Satun and Boundary Pillars 69 and 70 in Narathiwat province have been major causes of conflict between the two countries.

According to Thailand, Boundary Pillar 1, which lies on Pha Khao Rock, should be some two kilometres away at the mouth of the Kolok River in Malaysian territory. Malaysia claims the positions of Boundary Pillars 69 and 70 are incorrect and should lie further inside Thai territory.

Banhan said the dispute over the land in Padangmesa Market was also settled, and the Malaysian premier agreed to let Thailand keep the land on which the Hok Teck shrine lies in return for an equivalent piece of land. He did not elaborate.

The two leaders witnessed the signing of three memorandums of understanding, two on the purchase of natural gas in the Malaysia- Thailand joint development area and one on fishing cooperation between Surat Canning Public Co Ltd and NS Bahtera Sdn Bhd.

Banhan said the fishing cooperation and joint ventures would help reduce Thailand's fishing problems.

Malaysia also released Thai prisoners to mark the 50th anniversary of His Majesty the King's accession to the throne.

The two leaders also discussed the trans-Asian railway, concerns for the Thai labour force in Malaysia, measures to facilitate cross- border activities and ways to increase investment in the growth triangle between the provinces of southern Thailand, northern Malaysia and Indonesia.

Both leaders also agreed to the establishment of a Thai-Malaysian business council to boost bilateral trade and investment.

Their meetings also covered regional issues including the ASEAN Free Trade Area and that Laos, Cambodia and Burma would soon join the association.

They also discussed Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the World Trade Organisation.

During Banhan's meeting with Goh in Singapore, similar issues were discussed, as well as encouraging the Thai-Singaporean Business Council, established in 1994, to be more active and to promote joint investment in Indochinese countries.

Banhan and Goh also discussed the new initiative to have ASEAN development cooperation in the Mekong subregion.

"Our private sectors can combine their resources and relative strengths to achieve more than if they go on their own. Thailand and Singapore can play a catalytic role with other like-minded countries," Goh said.

Thai Ambassador in Singapore Adisak Phanuphong said a Thai delegation would travel to the island nation in September to discuss business prospects and potential investment opportunities.

In November, a Singaporean delegation would reciprocate by visiting Thailand.

He said the aim would be to assess the investment potential of the Eastern Seaboard industrial zone, the high speed train to link Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok, and the proposed trans-Asian railway system.

Meanwhile, the freed Thai prisoners arrived in Narathiwat yesterday to a warm welcome from provincial authorities and relatives.

They arrived at 3 pm from Malaysia's Kelantan, escorted by the Thai consulate-general in Kotabaru, Dusit Chanthasut, and Malaysian senior immigration officer Abdul Rahim Isma-al.

The handover ceremony took place later at the middle of the Thai- Malaysian friendship bridge at Sungai Kolok.

Provincial governor Sawat Kritratchatanan represented the Thai authorities in the ceremony.

The freed men will be temporarily under the care of the Social Welfare Department's provincial office before being sent back to their home towns.

Thai Premier Returns From Visits to Malaysia, Singapore

BK0106154496 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha and his delegation returned to Thailand at 1400 today after completing their official visits to Malaysia and Singapore.

Briefing a news conference on the results of his visits to the two countries, Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha said that in Malaysia he discussed with his Malaysian counterpart the problem of two border markers — border marker no. 70 and border marker no. 1. The prime minister proposed that the two markers remain at their former locations in order to end the problem. The Malaysian prime minister agreed with the proposal. The two sides agreed to a joint fishing venture. The catches will be unloaded in Malaysian ports. A joint fish canning factory will be set up with equal sharing of benefit. The Malaysian authorities will be asked to release Thai fishing trawlers captured by the Malaysian authorities after fines are paid. The prime minister asked the Malaysian side to look after legal and illegal Thai workers with leniency. The prime minister also suggested the setting up of a Thai-Malaysian Business Council to strengthen bilateral trade and investment.

In Singapore, the prime minister said he discussed with the Singapore side the operation of the Thai-Singapore Business Council formed in 1994. He suggested that more meetings be held. Singapore is interested at investing in Thailand. A delegation will visit Thailand in early November to explore investment opportunities in the Eastern Seaboard Development Program at Laem Chabang.

Thailand: Bilateral Trade With Laos Detailed, Problems Viewed

BK0106145996 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 1 Jun 96 p B3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok — The Thai-Laos borders are 1,730 kilometers long bordering 10 Thai provinces, and are major trading areas.

The border provinces are: Chiang Rai, Phayao, Nan, Phitsanulok, Uttaradit, Loei, Nakon Phanom, Mukdahan and Ubon Ratchathani.

Thai-Lao trade turnover during the last 10 years increased tremendously especially in 1995, where turnover was valued at 11,107 million baht, compared with 1,075 million baht in 1994.

In 1995, Thailand exported products worth 9,000 million baht to Laos, compared with only 408 million baht in 1994.

In 1995 Thailand also imported products worth 2,107 million baht, compared with only 667 million baht 1994.

It shows the healthy trade between Thailand Laos where in 1995 bilateral trade passed the 10,000 million baht mark for the first time.

Regarding imports and exports of products between Thailand and Laos last year the main products as follows:

Imported products from Laos were: processed timber, plywood, logs, leather and animal products.

Exported products to Laos were industrial products, construction materials, automobiles and parts, agricultural and industrial products, ores and fuel, electrical appliances, machinery and parts.

Out of the 10 Thai border provinces Nong Khai has for many years ranked first with the most trade with Laos. In 1995 Nong Khai province had a turnover of 5,534.003 million baht, up 103.95 percent when compared with 2,713.420 million baht in 1994.

In 1995, Nong Khai exported products worth 5,015.263 million baht to Laos, and imports worth 518.740 million baht, 21.34 percent down.

Although border trade totals between Thailand and Laos are growing gradually, and are expected to rise at a higher rate in 1996, both countries' officials are continually having to try to find ways to solve problems which arise. Such problems are as follows:

Unauthorized trade. At present products are smuggled along the borders of both countries worth many millions of baht which have cost the government millions of baht in lost revenue each year.

Regulations for traveling in and out of Laos are not enforced. According to regulations for travel in and out of Laos stipulate that those who wish to travel to Laos must have a passport and an entry visa costing 300 baht per trip, but in practice travelers may use their border passes instead of their passports and visas. Lao officials ask for 300 baht per person to enter Laos along with 70 baht as a guarantee. Moreover, customs tax is charged at 20 baht per person.

Basic facilities in Laos especially communications and transport are not readily available. This causes many problems such as high transportation costs.

Thais are required to pay cash for purchased products in cases where the price is not over 500,000 baht. While Laos traders are required to pay through commercial banks in the form of letters of credit (L/Cs).

Apart from joint measures to resole such problems, both governments should implement additional measures to encourage border trade, including:

An extension of the opening and closing times of the border checkpoints at Nong Khai and Vientiane.

The governments should invite private companies to propose ways to solve problems and to participate in talks on trade.

Both governments should establish a free tax zone along the borders.

The governments should encourage the private sector to set up a register for agencies who import and export products so that all trade between the two countries will come into the official system.

Finally, new border checkpoints should be opened such as at Bungkan in Nong Khai.

Thailand: Inflation, Current Account Deficit Issues Viewed

BK0206131196 Bangkok PRACHACHAT THURAKIT in Thai 3-5 Jun 96 p 15

[Report: "Solving Inflation and Deficit Problems Will Be the Real Test of New Finance Minister's Ability"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Newly appointed Finance Minister Bodi Chunnanon made his policies public last week. The targets he gave will be closely watched because they represented the state and the direction of the current and future economic situation. Attention will be focused on his policies to tackle the current account deficit and inflation issues, which Bodi said would be in a dangerous state if left untouched.

He said he would try to cut the current account deficit of 365 billion baht, or 8.1 percent of the 1995 GDP, to below 8 percent in 1996 and inflation to below 5.5 percent, or between 5.6-5.7 percent. His goal of keeping annual economic expansion at the appropriate rate of 8 percent and no more than 10 percent is interesting. He is confident that expansion at that rate will not cause the economy to overheat. He said the current economic growth of between 8.3-8.5 percent is appropriate, adding that larger growth will be beneficial, because the desire to invest by the private sector is still high and it will contribute to the ability of the private sector to compete in the system.

The Bank of Thailand [BoT] and the National Economic and Social Development Board [NESDB], however, viewed the 8.6 percent of economic growth of the GDP in 1995 as overheated, considering the inflation at 5.8 percent and current account deficit at 8.1 percent. As a result, at the end of 1995 the BoT set the target of reducing the 1996 economic growth to 8.3 percent of the GDP and the current account deficit to 6.5 percent. The BoT will review the economic estimates again in July.

Meanwhile, the NESDB estimates in May gave the economic growth at 8.5 percent, inflation at 5.5 percent, and current account deficit at 7.8 percent.

In view of the difference in policies of the main authorities that control the economy, it is worth watching the direction that they will now take to maintain the country's economic stability.

The BoT figures for the first quarter of 1996 show that the current account deficit and inflation are still at undesirable levels. The current account deficit is 87.8 billion baht, compared with 61.6 billion baht for the same period of the previous year, but a decline from 100.2 billion baht in the last quarter of 1995.

The high current account deficit was attributed to slowdown in export from 28.2 percent to 7.8 percent. The export value in the first quarter is 348.2 billion baht. Export of industrial products in the period decline to 9.9 percent, compared with 26.5 percent in the first quarter of 1995. The declines include garment, canned food, plastic products, shoes, rice, frozen chicken, and frozen shrimp.

Despite the slowdown in import growth to 12.3 percent from the 33.8 percent in the first quarter of 1995, the balance of trade deficit is 113.7 billion baht in the first quarter of 1996. The inflation increases to 7.3 percent in the first quarter due to rapid increase in price of food and the effects of floods and decline in fish catches in waters of the neighboring countries.

The above inflation and current account deficit figures show that there is considerable pressure on the country's economic stability. As a result, the BoT has emphasized the necessity of careful financial and fiscal policies to achieve clear improvement in the inflation and current account deficit situation in the latter half of 1996. The BoT measures and direction may be correct, however, they may not satisfy the new finance minister, because strict BoT financial measures will put pressure on investment by the private sector and slow down economic growth. In particular, the BoT control of credit growth in the private sector and of credit/saving ratio has shown clear success. Credit growth in the first quarter declined to 22 percent from 24.1 percent in the previous quarter, while savings in commercial banks expanded to 23.3 percent in March from 18.2 percent at the end of 1995.

If the finance minister's policy is to promote investment by the private sector to comply with the wish of the administration — the political parties — to please the people by allowing the economic growth to reach 10 percent, the BoT will have to relax its financial measures in order to allow expansion of private investment. Consequently, the BoT will have to resort to measures to effectively control government spending, including the military budget, to ensure the country's economic stability. There is, however, considerable government spending on infrastructure development, and it remains to be seen how government spending can be controlled and how sincere the imposed measures is.

Thailand: Party Leader Announces Withdrawal From Government

BK0106101796 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prachakon Thai Party is now holding a rally at Lumphini Park, right in the heart of Bangkok, to muster support for its gubernatorial candidate Kritsada Arunwong na Ayutthaya. Our live coverage team and correspondent Khun Orawan has the following report: [Begin live relay]

The grand rally organized by Prachakon Thai Party has just concluded. The speech by party leader Samak Suntharawet was not televised live because we could not interrupt our normal Channel 9 program. However, I have a summary of speech delivered by Samak at 0645 as follows: Samak Sunthorawet, leader of Prachakon Thai Party and deputy prime minister, announced that he will submit a resolution to the prime minister tomorrow when the latter returns from his visit to Malaysia and Singapore. The resolution adopted by the party's executive committee at its latest meeting says the party should withdraw from the coalition government because the recent cabinet reshuffle has been deemed as dishonoring the party. He reaffirmed that there will no bargaining when he submits the party's resolution to the prime minister and that he will not ask for any political position. In other words, Samak and all the members of the party's executive committee have agreed to withdraw from the government. However, Samak said: pending the celebration of the golden jubilee of His Majesty the King's accession to the throne, Samak and the three ministers under Prachakon Thai Party's ministerial allotment will continue to work until 14 June. He added that the party's withdrawal will not affect government stability as it has only 18 MP's. That is the gist of the speech delivered by Samak during the rally. [End live relay]

Thailand: Prachakon Thai Not To Join Opposition Despite Withdrawal

BK0106132796 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Jun 96 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prachakon Thai is to resign from the Government but will not join the Opposition, party leader Samak Sunthorawet said yesterday.

Mr Samak said he will inform Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha of its withdrawal today when he returns from his visit to Singapore and Malaysia.

Prachakon Thai, which has three ministers, will withdraw on June 15, he said.

"The Government will only see 18 votes disappear," Mr Samak said at a campaign rally in Lumphini Park for Kritsada Arunwong na Ayutthaya, who has the party's backing in the Bangkok governor election.

Mr Samak said he was not pulling his party out in protest at the latest cabinet reshuffle but because he felt Mr Banhan should have consulted its leader while working on the new line-up.

In the shake-up, Mr Banhan gave Nam Thai an extra portfolio even though both parties have 18 MPs, and he retained Phalang Tham against Prachakon Thai's wishes.

Apart from Mr Samak, a Deputy Prime Minister, Prachakon Thai's secretary-general Yingphan Manatsikan is Minister of Science, Technology and the Environment, and deputy leader Chaiphak Siriwat is Deputy Transport and Communications Minister.

Prachakon Thai's executive committee resolved this week to pull out of the Government as it felt Mr Banhan disregarded the party's dignity.

Earlier, there were reports Prachakon Thai deputy leader Chaiphak asked Mr Banhan for an extra portfolio to keep the party in the coalition.

Mr Samak said he would not bargain for anything with Mr Bannan during their talks. "It is a matter of political etiquette that I will inform him of the party's decision in person," he said.

The withdrawal, he said, would prove that the party did not make empty threats. "The decision is final and there will be no need to consult the executive committee after I meet Mr Banhan."

Mr Samak, who denied Mr Banhan had called him from Singapore to sort problems out, could not hide his feelings. When asked how the pullout would affect the Government, he said: "Has the Government ever cared for Prachakon Thai?"

Prachakon Thai secretary-general Yingphan earlier said he was worried that Mr Banhan would talk Mr Samak out of quitting because the party leader was a "soft-hearted" man.

Mr Samak said he may have been able to counter the executive committee's decisions on certain issues in the past but not this time. "They were right and I have no reason to go against them," he said.

However, he did not rule out the prospect of Prachakon Thai rejoining the Government in another cabinet reshuffle. "Let's talk about it when the time comes," Mr Samak said.

But he maintained his party would not join the Opposition after leaving the Government. "It doesn't mean that when I am not in the Government I have to be in Opposition."

Mr Samak claimed the Opposition itself did not want his party to be a part of it, saying some opposition MPs were fond of scolding him.

He also dismissed reports of a conflict between Mr Yingphan and Mr Chaiphak, saying the two had just given "different accounts" on the party's withdrawal.

Thailand: Banhan Reportedly Fails To Keep Prachakon Thai in Coalition

BK0206093396 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 2 Jun 96 p A1, A2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha, who returned from visits to Malaysia and Singapore yesterday, apparently failed to dissuade Deputy Prime Minister Samak Sunthorawet from pulling his Prachakon Thai Party out of the seven-party coalition government.

Samak, also Prachakon Thai leader, said after a one-hour meeting with Banhan at the Thailand Cultural Centre yesterday that he had the prime minister of his party executive committee's decision to quit the coalition on June 15.

"I insist on (keeping to) our earlier decision to withdraw from the coalition government," the Prachakon Thai leader said. "Now the prime minister may have to find another party (from the opposition) to replace Prachakon Thai."

Although Banhan's first attempt at damage control failed, his coalition was in no danger of collapse, as it controls 232 seats in the 391-member House of Representatives. Prachakon Thai holds only 18 seats.

Banhan tried unsuccessfully to avoid reporters after his brief meeting with Samak. When cornered and asked what he would do next, he responded: "Everything is all right. I'll find my way."

Banhan and members of his Cabinet were at the cultural centre yesterday to attend the taping of an ensemble singing a eulogy of His Majesty the King to mark the beginning of celebrations for the 50th anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne on June 9.

Samak said the prime minister "complained a little bit" when told of the Prachakon Thai's decision to pull out. He said the party's withdrawal would take effect on June 15, when all of its three Cabinet members would step down.

Prachakon Thai was angry with Banhan for carrying out a Cabinet reshuffle last Tuesday without consulting Samak.

The party was also irked by Banhan's decision to keep the Phalang Tham Party, its bitter rival in Bangkok constituencies, in the government despite the latter's failure to vote in support of former deputy interior minister Suchat Tancharoen in the no-confidence debate last month.

Deputy Prachakon Thai leader Yingphan Manasikan, also science minister, said Samak would hand Banhan resignation letters from himself, Yingphan, and Deputy Communications Minister Chaiphak Siriwat tomorrow.

Phalang Tham leader Thaksin Chinnawat suggested that Prachakon Thai was only making a gesture of quitting.

"In the end, I'm sure Prachakon Thai will remain with the coalition government," he said.

Social Action leader Montri Phongphanit said leaders of coalition parties, except Samak and Thaksin, discussed the Prachakon Thai pullout with the prime minister yesterday afternoon.

"Everybody wants Khun Samak and Prachakon Thai to stay on in the coalition government," Montri said. "The coalition party leaders are expected to discuss the issue again soon."

Asked whether Prachakon Thai's withdrawal would affect the coalition government's stability Montri said: "That's for the prime minister to decide."

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut, leader of the New Aspiration Party [NAP], said yesterday that while other coalition government parties respect Prachakon Thai's decision to quit, all of them would want to see the party remain in the partnership.

"We must find a face-saving way out for Khun Samak. I believe the problem, the misunderstanding, can still be resolved," Chawalit said.

The NAP leader said he would try his best to mediate in any conflict or resolve any misunderstanding in order to persuade Prachakon Thai to stay in the coalition.

"How could one give up on a true friend without even trying to talk things over?" he asked.

Justice Minister Chaloem Yubamrung, leader of the Muanchon Party, said yesterday he and other coalition party leaders would try their best to persuade Samak to reconsider Prachakon Thai's decision to quit the government.

"The Prachakon Thai Party consistently has been an honourable partner who always matches its words with actions. It never took advantage of its colleagues to score political points," Chaloem said.

Chaloem said he would seek a private meeting with Chawalit to discuss what they should do to try to persuade Prachakon Thai to continue in the coalition government.

"I really believe the prime minister can always bring the Prachakon Thai Party back into the coalition government if he wants to," the Muanchon leader said. [passage omitted on Prachakon Thai Party's popularity]

Vietnam

SRV Commentary Reviews Criticism of U.S. Helms-Burton Law

BK0106100396 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 31 May 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States has warned it will punish three companies from Canada, Mexico, and Italy for trading with Cuba despite the strong protest from various countries. The Voice of Vietnam has this comment:

For over a year now, the Helms-Burton law has attracted worldwide opposition, including from American people, for its inhumanity. Many international forum has criticized the Helms-Burton law as a violation of international law and an opposition against a third country. It is therefore intolerable for the United States to threaten to punish companies from Canada, Italy, and Mexico which are investing in Cuba.

The incident was immediately criticized by Cuban people and people in and out of the Latin American countries and the rest of the world. The Cuban news agency PRENSA LATINA on 29 May reaffirmed that the U.S. Helms-Burton law was against trade liberalization, and that was why Washington has been confronted with increasing opposition worldwide.

The same day, Chilean Vice Foreign Minister (Man Reanov Ceman) held that the Helms-Burton law was unilateral and [word indistinct] the U.S. territory. The Mexican Government warned that it would take appropriate measures domestically and internationally against the U.S. groundless law and to avoid its influence on Mexican economy.

Meanwhile, in Moscow, Russian senior Foreign Ministry officials pointed out that the U.S. Helms-Burton law has destabilized the political situation in Latin America and the rest of the world. Russia is against the law because it affects Russian interests in the region and violates rules of international relations. During his recent visit to Cuba, Russian Foreign Minister Primakov signed an intergovernmental treaty on cooperation in culture, education, and science and technology during 1996-98. The two sides also discussed ways to promote bilateral trade cooperation. Two-way trade turnover stands at $200 million. On 28 May, despite the U.S. Helms-Burton law, Ukraine also signed a protocol on bilateral cooperation with Cuba in public health and machinery manufacturing.

Addressing the American Press Club in Washington on 29 May, visiting British Foreign Secretary Rifkind termed the Helms-Burton law a short-sighted act detrimental to the American workers themselves in major foreign industries because they were forced to review their operation in other countries. The British diplomat affirmed that no countries have a right to control operation of other countries' companies in a third country. Earlier, people in the United States, Canada, Bolivia, Brazil, and other countries in Latin America also criticized the U.S. Helms-Burton law and demanded an end to the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

SRV: UN-Iraq Oil Agreement Welcomed ; U.S., UK Criticized

BK0106143296 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 May 96

[Unattributed article]

[FBIS Translated Text] The oil agreement, first of all, is a victory of the 17 million Iraqi people who have been the victims of sanctions since August 1990. CNN broadcast pictures of thousands of Iraqis filling the streets in Baghdad and other localities, chanting, and dancing to welcome the good news on the oil agreement. Many people celebrated by firing several rounds. The UN secretary general called it a success of the UN Security Council [UNSC], which outlined the formula to exchange oil for food in conformity with its UNSC resolution 986. Arab and OPEC countries heartily welcomed the Iraqi victory. Arab leaders welcoming the agreement expressed their hope that this important victory would lead to the end of the hardships suffered by the Iraqis and called for the total lifting of the UN embargo on Iraq.

In Vietnam, the Foreign Ministry spokesperson stated: Vietnam welcomes the agreement reached between Iraq and the United Nations. Vietnam hopes that after this agreement, the sanction against Iraq will be quickly and totally lifted to end the prolonged hardships of the Iraqi people.

On 20 May, after the official announcement on the agreement, initial changes were noticed in the international stock and oil markets which were beneficial to Iraq. The Iraqi currency, the dinar, appreciated against the U.S. dollar, rising from 800 to 400 dinar in the London market.

The victory recorded by the Iraqi people is very encouraging because it was not a simple one. It was a harsh struggle against forces which do not want to see the success of the UN-Iraq oil negotiations. These forces do not want the embargo on Iraq to be lifted. These forces, first of all, are the United States and the UK.

The world has followed the numerous rounds of Iraq-UN talks since February 1996. The fourth round of talks, which began on 6 May, lasted for many weeks. At times, it was at the brink of collapse like previous ones, because of the obstacles created by the United States with UK support.

A the day before agreement was reached on 20 May, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz called on the world community to support, intervene, and prevent a U.S. and UK blockade, which might destroy the talks. He specially accused the United States of outright sabotage against the talks since it began in February 1996. He also pointed out that for six years, since the embargo on Iraq in August 1990, the U.S. had found all sorts of ways to maintain and tighten the embargo and to block all Iraqi and international efforts to lift or ease the embargo. This it did even without valid reasons after Iraq had totally observed UN resolutions on the destruction of offensive weapons; recognized Kuwaiti independence, sovereignty, and the border as redelineated by United Nations and the United States; and so forth.

These Iraqi efforts were recognized by UN observer groups and UN Security Council members Russia, PRC, and France. These countries proposed that the UNSC consider lifting the embargo on Iraq. However, the United States, with the UK support, did not accept it. Every time that Iraq made progress in observing UN resolutions, they cited new requirements and continued to apply the sanctions. Iraqi and international press remarked that the U.S. embargo against Iraq is a puzzle without a solution. Why is that? The public believes that the United States intentionally blocked the agreement and prolonged the embargo so as to weaken until the Iraqi regime collapses. This is in conformity with the U.S. strategy in the Middle East. The United States cannot accept an Iraq which is strong militarily and possessed great oil reserves being anti-American. This is the reason why it pressured for the extension of the embargo for six years, despite world protest and brutal impact that had on the Iraqi people.

According to international press, more than 1.4 million Iraqis, half of them children, died during the six years of embargo. They calculated that an Iraqi child died every four minutes from sickness and malnutrition, and an Iraqi youth every 10 minutes from the lack of medicine.

Due to the UN embargo in the past six years, the Iraqi Government had only been able to provide one-third of the food needed by the Iraqi people as it could not sell oil to buy food and medicine. All the hospitals were barely operational due to the shortage of medicine and poor facilities. All shipments of food and medicine were checked, blocked, or detained for months and years.

It is easy to understand why many countries have realized how unjust and brutal the embargo orchestrated by the United States was. They are now protesting against it, and are backing its lifting. Recently, many countries not only demanded for the embargo to be lifted, they also took practical measures to help the Iraqi people such as by sending food and medicine. Lately, France, a permanent UNSC member, which had been resolute in fighting against the U.S. embargo on Iraq, sent a delegation to discuss aid and investment cooperation in oil trading and exploitation. The French companies Total, Elle, and Alcatel signed oil contracts to explore for oil in southern Iraq, which is thought to have the world's second largest reserves.

The public hopes that after the 20 May agreement, which has brought about the first measure of relief for the Iraqis, the United Nations will move for a total lifting of the prolonged embargo. This is the next measure that needs to be taken after the 20 May agreement.

SRV: Scientists Hold Talks on Irrigation With PRC Counterparts

BK0306093096 Hanoi VNA in English
0736 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA June 3—A seminar on design and construction of irrigation projects in Vietnam and China has been held here recently.

Vietnamese and Chinese scientists at the seminar shared experience in technology, design and construction of irrigation projects in the two countries which, they hoped, will contribute to enabling Vietnam to gradually approach advanced technology and science in this field, initially using Southeast Asian countries' technology. They also discussed advanced technical measures to design and build dams and protection of irrigation projects.

The seminar was jointly organised by the Construction Consultancy Company No. 1, the Union of Agriculture Construction and Rural Development Enterprises, the Mechanical and Engineering Company, the Hai Hung Dam and Embankment Construction, in coordination with China's Hydroelectric Plant and Irrigation Construction Corporation No. 11.

SRV: Leaders Hold Talks With French Envoy

BK3105155296 Hanoi VNA in English 1537 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA May 31 — Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet today received Mr. Bruno Durieux who is the envoy of the French president on the Vietnam mission to inquire into the country's proposals to the Group of Seven summit scheduled to be met in France in late June.

Mr Bruno Durieux spoke of the other aims of his visit, including talks with Vietnam's leaders on how to develop the special relations between Vietnam and France in economic, political, and cultural areas. He informed the host of the French president's report to be presented at the G7 summit focussing on the world economic globalisation and developed countries' Responsibilities to this trend.

He also dealt with French help to Vietnam to settle foreign debts and the French president's wish to continue assisting Vietnam by various forms including through the EU and other international organisations.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet expressed thanks to the French president, government and people for their assistance to Vietnam in resuming relations with international organisations, settling foreign debts, and making preparations for the francophone summit to be organised in Hanoi in 1997.

Prime Minister Kiet said that Vietnam welcomed the issues to be brought out by the French president at the coming G7 meeting and expressed his wish for promotion of the relations between different parts of the world so as to establish co-ordination among developed and developing countries to solve problems araised from the trend of globalising the world's economy.

With regard to development assistance, Prime Minister Kiet stressed that if receiving more funds, Vietnam would better utilize its existing idle labour force, thus boosting economic development for the country as it is entering into the process of industrialisation and modernisation at the same time implementing a nationwide programme on hunger eradication and poverty alleviation.

He said he hoped that bilateral friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and France would be strengthened in conformity with the tradition and potential of both countries.

On May 30 afternoon, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam had a working session with Mr. Durieux.

Mr. Cam called on G7 countries to early take drastic measures to assist developing countries to settle the latters' foreign debts and work together to draft a multilateral investment bill to boost foreign investment for the interest of both investor and receiver countries.

SRV: Group Holds Meeting on Border Issue With Cambodians

BK3105153696 Hanoi VNA in English 1516 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA May 31 — Vietnamese and Cambodian expert working groups on the two countries' border issue met in the first session in Ho Chi Minh City from May 20-23.

The Vietnamese delegation to the session which was held in furtherance of the agreement by the two governments in the press releases issued on April 3, 1994, January 17, 1995, and April 10, 1996 was led by Mr Le Minh Nghia, senior advisor to the Vietnamese Government on border issue, and the Cambodian delegation by Ung Sean, deputy secretary of state for foreign affairs and international cooperation.

The session took place in the friendly and frank atmosphere. On the basis of mutual understanding and respect, Vietnamese and Cambodian experts agreed to hold the next session in Phnom Penh at suitable time to be agreed upon by the two sides through diplomatic channel.

SRV: President Receives Lao Interior Minister

BK3105153896 Hanoi VNA in English 1525 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA May 31 — State President Le Duc Anh received the interior minister of Laos, Mr. Asang Laoli, who paid him a courtesy visit at the presidential palace here this afternoon.

Mr. Asang Laoli currently on an official friendship visit to Vietnam conveyed best regards from Lao President Nouhak Phoumsavan to President Anh and expressed his pleasure at the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in general and the vigorous growth of the Vietnamese police in particular in the current renovation process. He said he hoped that bilateral cooperation and exchange of experience between the two ministries would be unceasingly consolidated and developed, contributing to the safeguard of security and social order.

President Le Duc Anh highly appreciated the fruitful development of the friendship and cooperation between the two interior ministries of Vietnam and Laos, based on mutual respect of national independence and territorial integrity. He hailed the results of the working sessions between the two ministries, during which the two sides shared experience in the fight against smuggling and maintenance of border security and social orders.

President Anh took this occasion to ask Mr. Asang Laoli to convey his regards to Lao party and state leaders and wish the Lao people of all nationalities prosperous and happy life.

SRV: Construction Begins on Three New Broadcasting Stations

BK3105064796 Hanoi VNA in English 0622 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA May 31 — The construction of three broadcasting stations is underway in three northern, central and southern provinces of Vietnam. This is part of Voice of Vietnam Radio's efforts to extend its coverage to every corner of the country by the turn of this century.

Work has started on construction of a 700-kw broadcasting station in My Van District of Hai Hung Province for the northern areas. As planned, 24 areas of facility construction and equipment installation in the station will be completed by the end of December this year. When the station becomes operational, it will help the population in the northern lowlands and midland areas to have access to all programmes broadcast by Vietnam Radio on current affairs as well as political, economic, cultural and social sectors.

Meanwhile, a 200-kw broadcasting station, which is being built in Dong Hoi District of Quang Binh Province for the central region is expected to be inaugurated later next month, according to Mr Dinh Ngoc Anh, deputy director general of Vietnam Radio.

In the south, a 3,500-kw station in Can Tho province is scheduled to begin operations in early May 1997. The biggest station of the three, it will extend coverage beyond the Mekong River Delta to other countries in the region.

SRV: Government Holds Regular Session 31 May-1 Jun

BK0206101696 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government held its regular May session from 31 May-1 June under the direction of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. The Government heard the following:

— A report by Dang Huu, minister of science, technology, and environment, on the structuring of scientific and technological organizations; and

— Reports by Tran Xuan Gia, deputy minister of planning and investment; and Nguyen Sinh Hung, deputy finance minister, on socioeconomic development and state budget income and expenditure over the first five months of 1996, as well as on measures to implement the state budget for the third quarter of 1996.

The Government also heard the following:

— A report presented on behalf of the Central Traffic Safety Steering Committee by Bui Van Suong, minister of communications and transportation, on the implementation of Decree 36-CP on social order and traffic safety in urban areas over the last 10 months; and

— A report by Tran Hoan, minister of culture and information and head of the Steering Committee for Implementing the Prime Minister's Directive 814 TTG, on the implementation of the drive to control cultural activities and fight against a number of serious social vices in the first five months of this year.

Cabinet members discussed and concurred with restructuring scientific research agencies in order to focus state investment for scientific and technological organizations toward issues that are truly related to national interests. They also stressed the need to link scientific and technological research projects with production and training. They also stressed putting research agencies in charge of technology in order to support production under the management of business establishments, thus guaranteeing rational methods of operations and the avoidance of overlapping work. Furthermore, they pointed out the need to formulate appropriate mechanisms, policies, and measures to restructure scientific and technological agencies in 1996 and subsequent years.

The Government discussed at length the implementation of the state budget for the first five months of this year, ways to boost production and accelerate monetary-financial management and state budget revenue, and expenditure. They also discussed measures to carry out the implementation of government decrees on social order and traffic safety in urban areas, control over cultural activities, and the fight against a number of serious social vices in the days ahead.

SRV: VNA Reports Public Response to Draft Political Report

BK0306080996 Hanoi VNA in English
0732 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA June 3—Since it was made public for discussions and comments among the population on April 10, 1996, the draft political report prepared by the Party Central Committee (seventh tenure) to be submitted to the Eighth National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) has received wideranging responses from people of all walks of life in the country as well as abroad.

The party daily NHAN DAN reported that it had received about 300 letters from people working in all political, economic, cultural and social sectors, giving comprehensive, in-depth analysis, detailed recommendations and even severe criticisms on a broad range of issues, especially such problems as corruption, smuggling and wasteful expenditure. However, most of these people showed consensus on the assessments of all aspects of life in the draft political report as well as their confidence in the leadership of the CPV.

By and large, public comments underlined the far-reaching significance of the achievements recorded in the 10-year renovation period, the danger of corruption and smuggling, detailed comments on national industrialization, education and training as the top priority in national policies, the preservation of Vietnam's cultural identity in the present market mechanism and the special importance of institutional organization and personnel work.

Many people said that the achievements in the ten years of renovation should be viewed not only as "the paramount achievements of great and important significance" as written in the draft report but also "of really immense significance and dimension beyond the national scale."

Mr. Nguyen Minh Chuong, a PhD degree holder, added: "In the renovation process, Vietnam has defended and developed Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought."

Two-thirds of the 300 letters described "bureaucracy, corruption and smuggling as more than challenges threatening the success of the renovation process because they are spreading as a national catastrophe."

Many said, "corruption is a premise for the increasing danger of 'peaceful evolution' and the slow-down of economic development that will widen the gap between our country and other countries."

On industrialization, almost all the comments agreed with the party's [word indistinct] to build a selective number of heavy industrial complexes in major sectors". They recommended that this should be done in line with the "demands of economic development and national defence and security preservation".

Some proposed that it is essential to thoroughly observe the standpoint "to fully use the human resource as the fundamental factor for the nation's sustainable and rapid development in which education and training assume a pivotal role in national development."

Nguyen Khac Vien, a noted scholar, said: "Industrialization and modernization must go hand in hand with the preservation of national identity in all aspects from the environment, landscapes to the soul and tradition of the nation, and the way of living, workstyle and customs of the Vietnamese."

Others attached importance to the need to provide ethical education to the young generation, build a legal system and preserve cultural customs and practices, maintain social discipline and order, and protect the environment.

They also stressed the importance of building a pool of qualified public officials and functionaries along the direction of "developing a strategy for institutional organization and personnel work, from personnel planning, training, re-training and fostering to developing policies and mechanisms aimed at selecting talented people".

SRV: New Party Chief Le Xuan Tung Interviewed

BK3105152096 Hanoi TUOI TRE THU DO
in Vietnamese 23-29 May 96 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Le Xuan Tung, Hanoi City party committee secretary, by Ngoc Thao — place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the first congressional session beginning 13 May, the Hanoi 12th party executive committee elected Comrade Le Xuan Tung, former party committee first deputy secretary, as party committee secretary.

Comrade Le Xuan Tung was a teacher and a secondary school principal in the 1950's. Then, he worked for 18 years at the Nguyen Ai Quoc Institute where he rose to become the vice director and party committee secretary. At the Sixth National Party Congress, he was elected to the party central committee, and for five years served as an assistant to then Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh. The Seventh National Party Congress assigned him to the position of first deputy secretary of Hanoi's 11th city party committee. A professor in economics, he has also done research in history and literature.

Soon after his new appointment, Comrade Le Xuan Tung granted an interview to a correspondent from TUOI TRE THU DO [TTTD].

[TTTD] Dear comrade party committee secretary, the city's 12th party congress successfully concluded with the election of the 12th party executive committee. This committee consists of cadres who have more essential training and are younger in age. Are these comments correct?

[Le Xuan Tung] First, it is necessary to affirm that the Hanoi party organization's 12th congress is one of the most successful congresses. This was reflected in its documents and organization. We have a new party executive committee of 51 members, elected in a single round and with high majorities. Most committee members were elected with 95 to 98.99 percent of the votes. The average age of the committee members is 51.7, which is not quite young. However, I think under the current circumstances of the capital city, we cannot follow the quick rejuvenation method as much as in other localities. That would require a careful training policy and specific strategies in cadre work, so that at each party congress, we will be able to bring down the average age level a little. Of course, our target is still to have a younger committee.

The observation about the high training qualifications of the committee members is correct. Forty-nine out of the total of 51 members, or 96 percent, have university training. Twenty-seven percent of the members have post-graduate education, while 98 percent graduated from advanced ideological courses. That means only one member has intermediate level. I believe this is excellent and reflects the prowess of the new executive committee, making them worthy of their responsibility toward the capital city, which is the political, economic, and cultural center of the whole country.

Of course, qualifications are not everything, but they are the important premises that allow us to put our hope in the competence of the new executive committee.

[TTTD] What are your impressions of the new generation of leaders in the new executive committee (18 members elected for the first time)? And what will the new executive committee do for the new development period for the capital, when it is at the threshold of the 21st century and close to its 1,000th founding anniversary?

[Le Xuan Tung] Eighteen committee members, or 35 percent, have been elected for the first time. I think this is reasonable, logical, and ensures the replacement principle. This force will provide the executive committee with new energy, and this is one of our advantages. I hope these comrades will never stop enriching themselves in their jobs, in anticipation of their responsibility for the 13th office term.

The development period of 1996-2000 is significant to our capital city. The 12th executive committee has submitted to the city party organization and the people our construction and development plan for Hanoi to the year 2000.

We have to select the most fundamental ones among the numerous demands and aspirations. I think that the most central duty for the immediate as well as long-term future is economic development along the path of industrialization and modernization. A developing and stabilized economy will create conditions for the development of all other sectors in the capital city. This duty should not be considered lightly. All other activities should support the core duty of economic development. All party organizations that are considered pure and steadfast should be competent in fulfilling its economic development duty. Without this, a party organization cannot be called pure and steadfast.

Second, party building work is decisive to the success of industrialization and modernization. In the future, every party organization at grass roots level should make their party building task more in-depth, and should have concrete plans for its development especially in cadre training, as cadres determine the success of the movements. The weaknesses and inadequacies of cadres at party organizations at grass roots level are the consequences of our unsatisfactory cadre work.

The third duty is to build an competent and steadfast administration capable of realizing all party lines and policies. The party's leadership role cannot be demonstrated with weak people's committees in wards, villages, and districts. We highly regard the duty of building and consolidating the administration, as it is also the policy of our state to strengthen the national administration with the main task being the administrative reform program.

The fourth duty is to draw up the Hanoi city municipal development plan. To develop our city, first we have to work out a correct municipal masterplan. Presently, our city authority is amending for the third time the Hanoi masterplan to make our city a civilized, clean, beautiful, orderly, and worthy model for other localities. In the construction and development process, we will continue with the rapid development of infrastructure, the preservation of ancient and old quarters, and the establishments of 10 new urban zones. This is to reduce the population density which is already unacceptably high in the inner suburbs. Between these zones we will develop the highway network linking the main centers. Once we complete the plan, I believe Hanoi will be able to achieve the above aims gradually, regardless of how difficult they will be.

Those are the four main duties the city needs to focus on ahead of an important event. Ten or 15 years may sound long, but right now we have to start all the projects one by one, and by the 1,000th founding anniversary of our city we will have a considerable number of projects.

[TTTD] In the capacity of city party committee secretary, do you have any hopes or wishes for the youths of the capital city?

[Le Xuan Tung] The youths of our city are a very important force, as they have knowledge, ambition, and hold many important positions in the economic and other sectors. We always have high and profound expectations for youth.

The resolution of the city's 12th party congress poses vast and difficult tasks, such as a GDP per capita growth rate of 15 percent, an industrial output increase of 19-20 percent, and an agricultural output increase by 4-4.5 percent. Who will be responsible for these tasks? Of course youths. I have placed very high hopes on youths, because they have the strengths that other groups do not have: youth, audacity, and dynamism. In education and scientific research, I hope that our city's youths will also score splendid achievements, contribute their talents to national construction, and prepare well for the 21st century. The important thing for our youths is the determination not to fall behind other cities and provinces as well as other countries in the region. I heartily wish for the youth union and all strata of the city's youths to seriously study the resolution of the city's 12th party congress, and realize them with concrete programs and proposals.

SRV: 'Feud' Foreseen Over Control of Internet Services

BK0306021096 Bangkok ASIA TIMES in English 3 Jun 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by Andy Soloman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi — Vietnam's state telecommunications regulatory body has insisted it is the only organization entitled to license Internet Service Providers (ISP), suggesting there may be a feud ahead between ministries for control of potentially lucrative Internet services.

The Directorate General of Posts and Telecommunications (DGPT) issued the country's first set of Internet regulations on May 23, and said it would now begin accepting applications.

The directorate added that it expected the country's first links to the Internet to come in the "very near future".

Critics said the move was a power play, and said the directorate was hoping to set a precedent in order to gain control over the Internet.

They suggested the directorate wanted to give the state telecom business and operations arm — Vietnam Posts and Telecommunications (VNPT) — a leg up.

Previous government discussions resulted in assigning the Ministry of Culture and Information authority to license and operate Internet services.

Security issues were the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior and the directorate was deemed responsible for technical issues only.

An official from the Ministry of Culture and Information said the directorate might temporarily issue licences, but the Ministry of Culture would have ultimate responsibility for Internet services.

The Ministry of Culture already has responsibility for television, radio, publishing and other forms of mass media and information provision.

The directorate and Vietnam Posts and Telecommunications were officially separated in 1995.

However, the two organizations share one headquarters and their relationship is as close as ever.

Both the military and Saigon Posts and Telecommunications have been licensed to establish telecom networks but neither has yet managed to get up and running and the VNPT continues to operate an effective state telecom monopoly.

Nguyen Ngo Hong, director of the VNPT Information Center for Posts and Telecommunications, said according to a government decision made in March about the rights and responsibilities of the directorate, the organization had an absolute right to license Internet service providers.

"Internet services are value-added services on the telecommunications network.

"Therefore it belongs to the DGPT management responsibility," Hong said, before adding that the Internet was not specifically mentioned in the regulations.

"What the DGPT is trying to do is establish its authority, its jurisdiction which it doesn't even have, not clearly anyway," said Francois Fortier, an information technology consultant based in Hanoi.

Fortier said that on the surface the DGPT Internet regulations appeared to be a step forward, because all organizations and individuals had the right to apply for an ISP licence and the content of data transmissions was the responsibility of the end users and ISPs.

But a confidential internal document leaked from the directorate a couple of days after the decision's announcement seemed to suggest that while all organizations were free to apply for a licence, only established telecommunications service operators — namely the VNPT — would be approved.

Hong said he had no knowledge of the confidential document and denied that the directorate was giving the VNPT preferential treatment.

"VNPT is one of the potential Internet service providers, not the single Internet service provider," he said.

An official from the directorate said that because DGPT was the state telecom management body, it had an obligation to give fair treatment to all telecom service providers and that the close relationship between the VNPT and the directorate would not lead to unfair competition.

"There can't be any unfair advantages to any special provider," said the official, who declined to be named.

"VNPT is always the emerging provider in every (telecom) field and that may cause misunderstandings that VNPT has some unfair advantages in its treatment by the DGPT."

The directorate is circulating its Internet regulations to other government ministries and requesting comments within a month.

But Vietnam is now gearing up for its landmark Eighth Communist Party Congress, at the end of June.

Senior government officials are swamped with Congress preparations and have little time for anything else.

Observers said the timing of the regulations suggested the directorate was trying to squeeze the legislation through unnoticed.

Hong refused to comment on the timing.

The Hanoi-based Institute of Information Technology was given approval by the government to conduct Vietnam's Internet experiments.

The 2,000 users on its Netnam and Varenet networks are able to send and receive international e-mail, but cannot log into remote sites outside the country.

Last July the institute, which operates under the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment, applied to the VNPT to lease a satellite-linked line to allow subscribers access to international on-line services. Citing security and cultural integrity issues, the VNPT refused.

Observers said the VNPT wanted to stymie competition and that the refusal was commercially, not politically, motivated.

Hong said he did not consider Netnam and Varenet to be part of the Internet. Instead, the networks were just for data transmission.

"But if they (want to) work as Internet services after the decision of the DGPT they have to report to the DGPT."

SRV: Central Region's Future, Cement Demands Viewed

BK0306092896 Hanoi VNA in English 0806 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA June 3—Vietnam's cement industry has found the central region a promising market since the sharp rice in this region's cement demand over the past few years.

The region, including eight coastal provinces, and four central highlands provinces, consumed more than 700,000 tonnes of cement in 1994, and 1.5 million tonnes in 1995. With the current construction boom, the region will need over two million tonnes of cement by the turn of this century.

However, the regional cement demand could increase to 4.5 million tonnes per year if a number of development projects, which are now under consideration, are granted licences.

The biggest industrial zone of the region, called Dung Quat-Lien Chieu, will comprise an oil refinery, ten small-scale industrial zones cover 400 ha, a complex of shipbuilding yards, oil-rig manufacturers, consumer goods production units, construction material factories, car-assembly plants, food processing factories, and a system of oil and container ports. Moreover, planners of the region have also proposed a city for 300,000 people called Van Tuong, the upgrading of Chu Lai Airport, and the building of a highway linking Da Nang city and Dung Quat Industrial Zone.

The Ministry of Aquatic Products is also designing a number of projects to build fishing ports in the Provinces of Quang Binh, Quang Tri, and Quang Nam-Da Nang.

The existing five local cement factories and a grinding and mixing cement plant with a combined capacity of 750,000 tonnes/year are not able to meet the new demands for cement so the region is planning to build four more cement factories and upgrade existing factories. These will turn out 3.5 million tonnes of cement by 2000 leaving a one million tonnes deficit in the estimated demand of the region.

Australia

Australia: Howard Announces Plan To Visit Japan, Indonesia in Aug

BK2705073096 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 27 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's Prime Minister John Howard has announced that his first overseas trip as leader will be to Japan and Indonesia. Mr. Howard told parliament that he will visit Tokyo from the 7th to the 10th of August and Jakarta from the 11th to the 13th of August. He said the trip would be an illustration of the importance the new coalition government placed on relations with Asia. Mr. Howard said he was continuing the trend of good relations with the region made by every Australian prime minister in the last 45 years. He said one of the more ridiculous and stupid comments made during the campaign for Australia's March election was the Labor Party claim that Asia-Pacific leaders will not deal with the coalition prime minister. Mr. Howard said that, unlike the Labor Party, his government did not see Australia's past associations with Europe and North America as a liability in dealings with Asia.

Australia: Government, Opposition Discuss Middle East Peace Process

BK0206122596 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 2 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Both the Australian Government and the Opposition say the Middle East peace process is not necessarily over just because Israel has elected a new right-wing prime minister; but as Tanya Peterson reports, Opposition Leader Kim Beazley says Benjamin Netanyahu's victory is disappointing.

[Begin recording] [Peterson] Foreign Minister Alexander Downer was the first politician take to the podium of the 37th Conference of the Designers' Federation of Australia. He says Mr. Netanyahu's win set a new phase in a peace process in which security issues will play a key part, but Likud must be prepared to continue taking risks for peace. Opposition Leader Kim Beazley told the conference he wouldn't be too hasty in calling the peace process into question; however, he is saddened by the Israeli Labor Party's lost.

[Beazley] It's a particularly sad thing because it is the party and the government that changed the legacy of a man who, I think, was one of the few real statesman in the international political landscape of the late 20th Century, Yitzhak Rabin. [end recording]

Australia: Tim Fischer Urges Continuing Middle East Peace Process

BK3105061796 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's deputy prime minister, Tim Fischer, says he hopes the close result in Israel election will not derail the Middle East peace process.

[Begin Fischer recording] It's my hope that the very difficult and challenging process of Middle East peace process will continue. That has to involve Syria and Israel, that equation has been for far too long not activated for various reasons. It must ultimately, of course, also involve Lebanon and Israel. The sooner there is further progress with the peace process the better. I'm watching closely the very close count in the Israeli election. [end recording]

Australia: Opposition Leader Regrets Israeli Election Results

LD0206135196 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1200 GMT 2 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Both the Australian Government and the opposition say the Middle East peace process is not necessarily over just because Israel has elected a new right-wing prime minister. But, as Tanya Peterson reports, opposition leader Kim Beazley says Benjamin Netanyahu's victory is disappointing.

[Begin recording] [Peterson] Foreign Minister Alexander Downer was the first politician to take to the podium at the 37th Conference of the Zionist Federation of Australia. He says Mr. Netanyahu's win set a new phase in the peace process in which security issues will play a key part but Likud must be prepared to continue taking risks for peace. Opposition leader Kim Beazley told the conference he wouldn't be too hasty in calling the peace process into question; however, he is saddened by the Israeli Labor Party's loss.

[Beazley] It's a particularly sad thing because it is the party and the government that carried the legacy of a man who, I think, was one of the few real statesmen in the international political landscape of the late 20th century: Yitzaq Rabin. [end recording]

Australia: Chinese Refugee Boat Arrives in Darwin

LD3105111796 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 31 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Immigration Department has confirmed the detention of another boat carrying Chinese-speaking people in northwest Australian waters. Paul Cullen reports that the boat with 23 people aboard has been escorted into Darwin harbor by the navy:

[Cullen] immigration Department spokesman Stuart Foster says the vessel carrying the group was heading for Darwin when it was apprehended on the edge of Australian waters by HMAS Geraldton. It was then placed under escort to Darwin harbour where it arrived at about noon today. Mr. Foster says those on board are being medically examined and it is understood two people are receiving treatment for sea sickness. While the origin of the 23 people is not known, Cantonese interpreters are being used to communicate with them. A decision on where they will be detained has not yet been made.

Australia: Independent Parliament Member Launches New Political Party

BK0206133196 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 2 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The independent federal member of parliament for Kalgoorlie, Brian Campbell, says he has launched a new party to head off what he calls turmoil in the political scene. Mr. Campbell says he believes the party, Australia First, will become the third force in Australian politics. Today's launch follows a merger of Mr. Campbell's supporters and the Reform Party headed by (Ted Drain) from the Sporting Shooters' Association.

Mr. Campbell says the party will give those opposed to tough new gun laws a credible forum through which to vent their anger, but he says it will not be a one issue party. He says it will also support citizens, initiated referendums, a manufacturing industry policy reducing the power of government, and scrapping multiculturalism. Mr. Campbell says his party will attract voters away from the ruling Liberal-National Party and the opposition Labor Party.

French Polynesia

French Polynesia: Gaston Flosse Reappointed President

BK2905112396 Hong Kong AFP in English 1058 GMT 29 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PAPEETE, May 28 (AFP) — Neo-Gaullist leader Gaston Flosse was easily reelected president of the government of French Polynesia on Tuesday, winning 28 votes against 11 for pro-independence chief Oscar Temaru.

Two of the votes cast in the 41-seat assembly were blank.

Flosse's Tahoeraa Huiraatira picked up 22 seats in the May 12 elections to the assembly of the French Pacific territory, and commands 28 in all with the support of other deputies.

The vote was marked by a revival of heated debate about the future of the Polynesia, a territory dominated by the island of Tahiti.

In a clever tactical manoeuvre, Temaru's Tavini Huiraatira put forward 11 candidates for the territorial presidency, enabling them to make lengthy speeches, in both French and Tahitian, on plans for independence and a self-sufficient economy based on on tourism, fishing and fish farms.

Under it, Polynesia would have a "pluri-ethnic independence without breaking with France." Their speeches caused proceedings to run for 10 hours.

Flosse acidly commented on what he called the "obvious contradiction" in the apparent hopes of pro-independence deputies that Polynesia could have both sovereignty and continuing French economic help on today's levels.

"Polynesia receives 70 times more aid per capita from France than francophone countries in Africa," he said. "To my mind, it is not very worthy or glorious to want a divorce and still get a big alimony."

French Polynesia has 212,000 inhabitants, located 17,000 kilometres (10, 500 miles) from Paris.

It has been been a French Overseas Territory since 1945 and gained the right to elect a territorial president in 1984. The territorial assembly is elected by universal suffrage every five years.

French subsidies account for around 60 percent of the local gross domestic product, a figure that has declined from 75 percent over the past three years.

Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands Reinforces Border After PNG Incursion

LD0306092196 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0700 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Solomon Islands Government has sent extra police to the border with Papua New Guinea to reinforce its border posts in the wake of the latest incursion by Papua New Guinea [PNG] military forces. Sean Dorney reports that the additional Field Force policemen have been flown to the border islands in a chartered aircraft.

[Dorney] The Solomon Islands prime minister, Solomon Mamaloni, has assured Solomon Islands citizens living in the islands closest to Bougainville — the Shortlands and Choiseul — that his government is doing all it can to address what he calls the problem at the border. But Papua New Guinea has been slow to respond to the Mamaloni government's stern diplomatic protest note over what the Solomons describes as the continuous, provocative, and aggressive actions by PNG forces. Papua New Guinea's prime minister, Sir Julius Chan, admitted yesterday there had been an incursion into Solomon Islands territory by PNG military personnel, but said he believed it was in hot pursuit of rebels. There has been no further comment today.

Sean Dorney, Port Moresby.

[Announcer] Australia has expressed concern at the border clashes between Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. A spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Department said Australia was concerned about indications that the international border between the two countries was not being respected. The Canberra spokesman urged Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands to exercise restraint and to act in accordance with international law. He expressed regret that difficulties had arisen between two of Australia's closest neighbors.

The spokesman said Australia was aware of ongoing discussions between PNG and Solomon Islands to conclude a border treaty. Australia would encourage both governments to work together on border security issues.

Solomon Islands: Prime Minister Claims PNG Forces Fire on Village

BK0106091396 Hong Kong AFP in English 0905 GMT 1 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Auckland, June 1 (AFP) — Papua New Guinea [PNG] Defence Forces opened fire on a village at the northern tip of the Solomon Islands Saturday, Solomon's Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni said in a statement.

"There were no reported casualties but the incident has forced people at Liuliu village and other nearby villages to flee into the bush," Mamaloni said.

He said there had also been an exchange of fire between the defence forces and the Solomon Islands Police Field Force [PFF] while a pro-Papua New Guinea group fired on another village further south.

It amounts to a dramatic escalation of tension in the area which is dominated by Bougainville, a Papua New Guinea island that has been the scene of an eight year civil war between the separatist Bougainville Revolutionary Army and the PNG Defence Forces.

Earlier this year, a weak cease-fire between the two was called off by Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan. Following this, a shadowy pro-Papua New Guinea group known only as Spear has launched a series of incursions across the narrow straits between Bougainville and the northern Solomon Islands.

On Friday, Papua New Guinea Deputy Police Commissioner Graham Ainui and Solomon's Acting Commissioner of Police Morton Sirehiti met in the Solomon's capital Honiara and made recommendations in an effort to ease tensions.

Less than 12 hours later, the situation has worsened.

In a statement faxed here, Mamaloni said a defence forces patrol boat and two smaller boats crossed into the Solomons and fired shots at 9am (2100 GMT) in Liuliu village on the northern tip of Choiseul Island, just across a strait from Bougainville.

"Members of the (Police Field Force) from Taro Island on Choiseul and the patrol boat Auki rushed to the scene of the incident and have already secured the area."

He said the same defence forces boat was sighted earlier in the day outside Komaleai village in the Shortland Islands.

"There was an exchange of fire between the patrol boat and members of the PFF...," he said.

He also confirmed that on Friday a group he identified as a Bougainville resistance group — the usual term applied in the Solomons to pro-Papua New Guinea forces, went to Moli village in South Choiseul and opened fire on a group of seven Bougainvilleans in the area seeking medical assistance.

"I wish to assure my people in the Western and Choiseul provinces that my government is doing all it can to address the problems at the border. I request the people at the border region to follow whatever instructions that are given to you by the PFF for your security and safety," Mamaloni said.

A week ago, an AFP correspondent was the first journalist to reach the border area since clashes began about a month ago and reported people were fleeing the coasts and that a dawn to dusk curfew existed on lagoons and at sea.

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